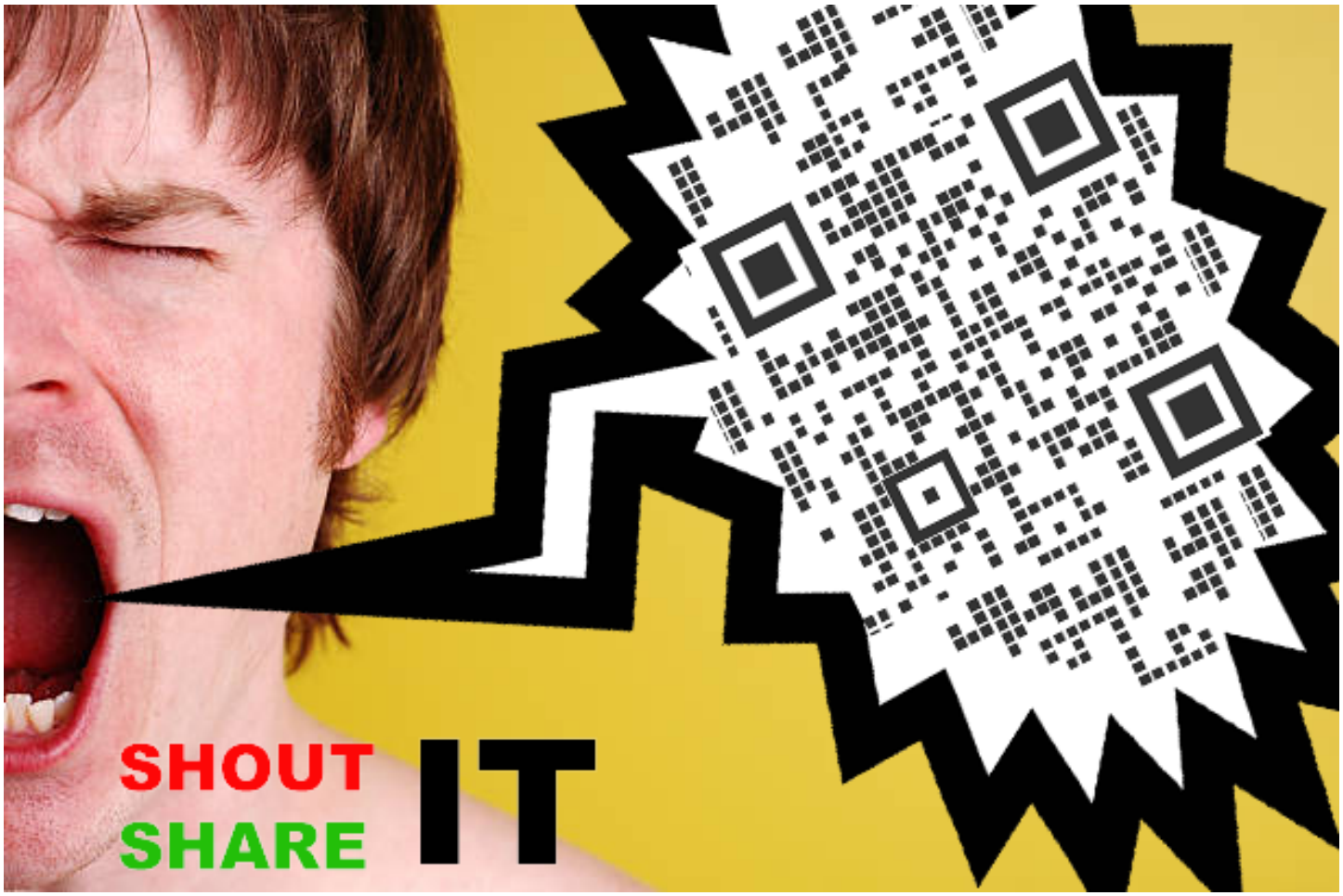
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A

TREATISE

ON THE

STRANGLES and FEVERS

OF

HORSES.

With a PLATE, repreſenting a HORSE in the STAGGERS, *ſtung*.

By THOMAS PROSSER.

LOCUPLETIBUS ÆQUI, PAUPERIBUS ÆQUI PRODEST.

LONDON:

Printed by A. GRANT, No. 91, Wardour Street, Soho, for B. UPHILL, No. 92, Mount Street, Groſvenor Square; Meſſrs. WHITE & SON, Fleet Street; R. FAULDER, New Bond Street; and J. BEW, Paternoſter-Row.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

MR. PROSSER, *after a long and extenſive Experience, now quits Phyſic, to engage in another Branch of Medicine (Farriery) to which he hopes to be able to render ſome material Services; and he apprehends the Time is faſt approaching, when Gentlemen of Education and Abilities will attend to this abſtruſe Science.*

No 2, Chapel-Row,
Brompton.

A

TREATISE

ON THE

STRANGLES and FEVERS

OF

HORSES.

THIS Treatiſe is an extract from a larger work, conſidering the management of horſes, under the principal diſorders they are liable to; intended to have been publiſhed, but retarded as yet in its progreſs to the public, by illneſs, and other employments of the author.

The ſubject is certainly every way of importance, to the ſtate, and to indivi-

duals; it equally concerns the rich and the poor. If the health and preſervation of a valuable horſe are intereſting to a gentleman, as inſtrumental to his pleaſure and amuſement, ſo is the matter intereſting to a perſon of inferior rank, on account of the animal's intrinſic value; and indeed many of the *middling rank* have ſo large a proportion of their property in horſes, that they are not unfrequently ruined by the loſs of them,—and hence we take our motto.—And notwithſtanding the many reſpectable writers on Farriery, of late, and the preſent day, we have our views and hopes to come in for our ſhare of utility; the proverb ſaith, "in the multiplicity of counſellors there is ſafety."

One end of utility we propoſe, in practiſing or turning our thoughts to Farriery, is now and then by analogous reaſoning, from

from man to animal, and animal to man, to throw a light upon each ſubject; for inſtance, horſes *we ſay* have not the *ague* or intermitting fevers; if we can learn a reaſon why they have not, perhaps it may furniſh a reaſon why man has. This matter I ſpeak of with confidence, the idea having been mentioned to a phyſician of the firſt eminence, who admitted its reaſonableneſs and plauſibility.

In conſidering the diſorders of horſes, we take the ſtrangles firſt in order, becauſe it is generally the firſt diſorder that happens to horſes, and becauſe we look upon it the only *innate* diſorder of this animal. The ſtrangles has been compared by writers on Farriery to the ſmall-pox; we think it has a great affinity to the hooping-cough; it is more confined to an age than the ſmall-pox; children only have the hooping-cough,

young horſes only have the ſtrangles; and theſe diſorders are not ſo certain. Very many more eſcape the hooping-cough than do the ſmall-pox, very many horſes never have the ſtrangles; it is by no means ſo certainly infectious as the ſmall-pox, but perhaps as much ſo as the hooping-cough; there ſeems to be no more analogy between the ſtrangles and ſmall-pox, than their happening but once; and that circumſtance holds alſo with the hooping-cough, and the infection in theſe diſorders; the hooping-cough and ſtrangles, have this *ſingularity*, of being infectious only to the young. The ſtrangles we reckon the only *innate* diſorder of horſes, by which we mean, the only diſorder the ſeeds of which are born with the conſtitution: (man has many, as the ſmall-pox, meaſles, chicken-pox, and hooping-cough,) and no circumſtances in life contribute in any meaſure

to

to create this diſpoſition to it after birth, however circumſtances may contribute to bring it ſooner or later into action; and when the conſtitution has once paſſed the diſorder, it can never be reproduced. And we hope the wonderful phænomenon of our being ſubject to have theſe diſorders, and to have them but once, is to be explained in this manner, or not to be accounted for at all. If we attribute theſe diſorders to alterations taking place in the conſtitution after birth, ſurely this cauſe will operate to the reproducing of the diſeaſe, and this cauſe cannot be admitted when the diſorder happens ſo early as at a few days old; and the conſtitution we ſee is as certainly ſecured at this early period, from ever having the diſorder again, as it would be by its happening at any other time of life; and the ſmall-pox takes all times of life, from the earlieſt infancy, to the lateſt period of old age.

Mr.

Mr. Taplin, a popular writer on *Farriery*, of the preſent day, after obſerving, no one ſound reaſon has been given for the cauſe of the ſtrangles, by any one, does not preſume to introduce any thing dictatorially deciſive upon the ſubject; but ſubmits to the conſideration of others, what appears to him to contain every juſt reaſon that can be aſſigned for the appearance of a diſorder, attacking each ſubject to a certainty, at different periods, without contagion, or any cauſe hitherto eſtabliſhed, but that it is ſo. " After affording it every degree of conſideration, Mr. Taplin is perſuaded there is but one rational cauſe to be offered, why horſes, at the periods before mentioned, become THEN ſubject to this diſtemper; (as for inſtance,) thoſe horſes, or colts, that have been conſtantly well fed, without reſtraint, for three, four, or five years, muſt, with their food, have imbibed

bibed an accumulation of impurities; theſe having never been once agitated by evacuation, excited by art, or perſpiration promoted by exerciſe, muſt conſequently remain *ſtagnant* in the blood, till the horſe's being brought into uſe for the purpoſe he is intended, when the groſſneſs and viſcidity, that has ſo long lain dormant, ſoon becomes perceptible."

Mr. Taplin will have this diſorder to happen, with few exceptions, when the colt is *broke*; but it happens indifferently at any age before five years old, frequently whilſt ſucking.—" The fluids are too thick, ſluggiſh and heavy, for their diſtinct appropriation; the lungs are firſt over-loaded, a languor follows; to that a difficulty of breathing, or ſhort cough, ſucceeds; and, laſtly, the grand effort of nature diſplays itſelf in the diſeaſe before us; and that

is

is moſt judiciouſly made in the glandular parts, where ſhe is nearly adequate to her own work. This rational proceſs of the morbid matter (Mr. Taplin ſays) has ever affected him ſo forcibly with the idea of conviction, that nothing but a judicious, clear, and comprehenſive elucidation, demonſtrating an oppoſite cauſe, can ever reconcile him to another opinion."—This ſurely is altogether, *Farrier-like*, ridiculous and abſurd; the ſmall-pox we think has been attempted to be accounted for in the ſame manner. A man of ſcience may be excuſed in aſſerting a ſpeculative opinion, as Mr. Taplin's accumulation of impurities, and *groſſneſs* and *viſcidity* of the humours, in occaſioning the ſtrangles; but an opinion that is to be brought to the teſt of daily obſervation and facts, is ſurely no longer ſpeculative: and Mr. Taplin's opinion of the ſtrangles conſtantly happening

to

to horſes at the time of breaking, and its happening to all horſes without exception, I am ſure every farmer, or horſe-breeder, will tell Mr. Taplin, are opinions ill founded; and Mr. Taplin might have condeſcended to learn this from authors of reputation. Mr. *Gibſon* ſays, many colts have the ſtrangles at graſs; and thoſe that eſcape the ſtrangles at graſs, for the moſt part are ſeized, when they are firſt taken up and put to buſineſs. But if the diſeaſe aroſe from an accumulation of impurities, ſurely the diſorder would not appear as it does, in one certain and ſpecific form, but would happen with all variety of ſituation, &c.

Mr. Taplin ridicules the notion of *Gibſon*, and *Solyſelt*, of having thrown great light on this diſorder, by comparing it to the ſmall-pox; but we think this not

an unphiloſophical remark, nor uſeleſs and abſurd, as Mr. *Taplin's groſſneſs and viſcidity of the humours*, the compariſon of the ſtrangles to the ſmall-pox and meaſles holds, however; inaſmuch as it is a diſtemper (ſpeaking in the general) the conſtitution is to undergo, and but once.

The Claſſical Farrier now publiſhing by Mr. Merrick, (aſſiſted, he ſays, by ſeveral eminent phyſicians and ſurgeons,) gives the following account of this diſorder: "Of a quinſey, commonly called the ſtran-" gles." We think this learned body, whoſoever they are, that have lent their aſſiſtance to Mr. Merrick, have miſtaken the nature of this diſorder; for it is certainly quite different from a quinſey, which is a diſorder horſes are not ſubject to;—it happens to man, not in any meaſure like the ſtrangles in horſes, at or near a certain age;

age; but in very many inſtances is a frequent diſorder, happening as often to the ſame perſon, as taking cold, or other circumſtances in life may occaſion it; and it is well known, that perſons who have once had the quinſey violently, are ever after particularly liable to it. But I imagine neither Mr. Merrick, nor any one of his learned aſſiſtants, has ever known the ſtrangles to happen more than once—I hope theſe gentlemen are much better phyſicians and ſurgeons, than from this ſpecimen of their abilities, I can ſuppoſe them to be *Farriers.*

" If the practitioner," ſays Mr. Merrick, " rightly manages this diſorder, there is not the leaſt danger but that the horſe will ſoon recover. The ſigns of this diſeaſe (he tells us,) are a ſwelling under the throat, between the two jaw-bones; and the muſ-

cles of the tongue are very much affected." Now it appears to us, that the ſwelling between the jaw-bones is not a concomitant ſymptom or ſign of this diſeaſe, but the diſeaſe itſelf, in its conſtant form and place.

In the human ſpecies, they tell us, there is much more danger than in quadrupeds. —" In this diſorder," they ſay, " an inflammatory fever enſues, cauſed from a defluxion upon the thorax, fauces, and parts adjacent." This we ſuppoſe they mean to allude to the quinſey in man; but yet immediately follows, " there are three kinds of the diſorder, which gives way to the names of ſtrangles, baſtard ſtrangles, and vives; when the internal muſcles of the larynx are affected, without the appearance of a tumour, then it is called *Synanche;* when the external muſcles of the

the larynx are affected without a tumour, it is then called *Paraſynanche;* when an internal tumour is impeding reſpiration, it is called *Synanche;* and when the external muſcles of the fauces are inflamed, accompanied with a tumour, it is then called *Paraſynanche.*" Theſe hard names, we ſuppoſe, allude to the quinſey in man, and not to the ſtrangles.

Mr. Merrick, in his printed propoſals and advertiſements, did his work the credit of being aſſiſted by ſome eminent phyſicians and ſurgeons; but here is ſuch a confuſion and mixture of diſeaſes of man and horſes, that it is not eaſy to perceive when one is ſpoken to, and when the other; and we are led to be apprehenſive Mr. *Merrick* has been impoſed upon by the plauſibility of ſome daring empiric, and which we ſee daily practiſed with ſuch

ſuch wonderful ſucceſs, not on the health, but the credulity and ſimplicity of the public. " Whatever impedes or ſtagnates the fluids, immediately compreſſes the muſcles, which brings on inflammation, which generally ariſes from obſtructed perſpiration, after taking a violent cold;—this is the cauſe of the diſeaſe. If no ſwelling appears, the diſeaſe in that caſe may prove mortal."

We do not perceive of what diſeaſe it is meant here the horſe dies, when no ſwelling appears; he certainly does not then die of the ſtrangles; we may as well talk of the ſmall-pox and meaſles without an eruption, as the ſtrangles without a ſwelling; but diſorders that very rarely prove fatal, are ſometimes ſo, as the ſmall-pox by inoculation. One caution however we deem neceſſary in this diſorder, not to be

too

too early in opening the ſwelling, but rather to wait its breaking of itſelf, and which indeed we think is a practice now approved of by ſurgeons; and thus the ſuppuration of the ſwellings, and diſcharge of the matter being more compleat, a remaining induration and enlargement of the glands will be prevented, which would be a blemiſh, if not an injury to the ſervice of the horſe. "But if a large tumour ſoon appears, the diſeaſe will be eaſily conquered, and a laſting cure may be expected."—The cure will certainly be laſting, for the diſorder never happens a ſecond time. But to begin the cure, theſe gentlemen think it proper to apply an emollient poultice, twice a-day, ſpread upon ſome coarſe cloth, and ſewed tight about the ſwelling with a packing-needle and twine; bleeding and purging are to be omitted till the matter is all drawn away

by

by the poultice; after which, one, two, or three purges may be given;—they recommend "warm maſhes from the time the animal is taken ill till the humour be diſperſed, and warm water to be given the day the horſe takes phyſic."

Purging, we are happy to agree with theſe learned farriers, is here of no uſe, except in caſe of coſtiveneſs; but bleeding we think is uſed occaſionally to advantage, as when the ſwelling and inflammation threaten to be very conſiderable, the fever is great, and the horſe in high condition; here ſurely we are joined in opinion with the beſt writers, and warranted by experience, that taking away blood will forward the ſeparation and ſuppuration of the matter; and one authority that will be entirely ſufficient for us on this point, we will quote Dr. Mead, on the ſmall-pox; Dr. Bracken

Bracken alſo having given his opinion on this matter, in his *Art of Farriery*, we think it altogether to our purpoſe here: "Bleeding is requiſite in all impoſthumations, or gatherings of corrupt matter, in any part of a horſe's body; and more eſpecially when ſuch ſwellings are ſituate upon the glands or kernels of the throat, or when they endanger ſuffocation, or any other evil accident." A fever medicine alſo will be uſefully given once or twice a-day, or even oftener, as the exigency of the caſe may ſeem to call for it—a nitrous antimonial doſe we think, of from half an ounce, to 6 drams of nitre, as much liquorice powder, or any teſtaceous powder, and from 20 grains to 30 of the antimonial powder, of the New London Diſpenſatory, for one doſe, given in two or three horns of gruel, which will be neceſſary to dilute and ſoften the purgency of the nitre: Nitre given with-

out this caution, will be very uneaſy on the ſtomach; or to ſave the trouble of the horn, moſt horſes will be likely to take this doſe in a maſh, or drink it with their water; taking care that a part is not loſt at the bottom; if it is given in a maſh, ſome lue-warm water ſhould be given immediately after.

Bartlett's doſe of nitre, in his chapter on alteratives, is from 2 to 3 ounces made into a ball with honey, to be given every morning; he obſerves, if the horſe ſhews an uneaſineſs at the ſtomach after taking it, a horn or two of any liquor ſhould be given.—Whether the poor horſe ſhews it or not, he certainly muſt ſuffer great uneaſineſs in his ſtomach, from this doſe of nitre, or even from a doſe of one third of this quantity; this doſe being immoderately too large even for the ſtomach of a horſe; and we think

Mr.

Mr. Taplin has juſtly cenſured Barlett's too free uſe of nitre.

Purging after the diſeaſe, we ſee no reaſon for inſiſting upon; this diſeaſe, as Mr. Taplin obſerves, is uſhered in and attended with a hollow huſky cough, the horſe is diſpirited, ſluggiſh, and inactive: certainly ſo; and I believe Mr. Taplin will be able to find but very few diſorders under which the animal is lively and active. "The diſorder terminates, Mr. Taplin ſays, with a running at the noſe," but there is a conſiderable diſcharge from the noſtrils through the courſe of the diſorder, before the ſwelling breaks, and afterwards, eſpecially when the horſe drinks; he is alſo frequently troubled with a quantity of viſcid phlegm in the mouth, which he champs upon and endeavours to keep, or however he has no means to get quit of, as in man by ſpitting.

Mr. Taplin adviſes "the noſtrils to be frequently cleanſed from their diſcharge, by means of a ſponge and warm water, leſt the matter by coheſion to the parts ſhould acquire a foulneſs and fœtidity, that would ſhortly becomes acrimonious and corroſive;" there would be no harm in the uſe of ſponge and warm water, but we do not ſee it neceſſary, as we never knew it uſed, nor any bad conſequence to enſue; this acrimonious and corroſive fœtidity, we believe, is only to be found in the ingenuity of Mr. Taplin's ideas, and not in the noſtrils of the horſe: Upon the recovery of the horſe, Mr. Taplin ſays, he ſhould be put upon a courſe of mild mercurial phyſic, if there are no circumſtances to forbid it: this gentleman has given his reaſons for cleanſing the noſtrils from their diſcharge, but he does not enforce the neceſſity of purging the horſe with any reaſon; and as we have ſaid of ſponge and warm

warm water, ſo we ſay of phyſic, we believe it not neceſſary ; no injury enſuing from the omiſſion of purging after this diſorder.

A dogmatical opinion or *ipſe dixit* aſſertion from any one, we ſuppoſe would be very little thought of; it muſt be reaſons, arguments, or evidence that eſtabliſh the facts; theſe fairly brought forward, the public as an impartial jury will very readily decide with truth, or the ſtrongeſt probability, according to the evidence before them ; but Mr. Taplin's ſaying, purging is neceſſary after this diſorder, and my ſaying it is not neceſſary, is ſaying juſt as much as amounts to *nothing*.—Purging medicines are neceſſary after the ſmall-pox, and the ſtrangles has been thought a *concordant* diſeaſe ; but in the ſmall-pox, the matter of the diſorder ſeparated from the habit, is diffuſed over the whole body ; and when *confluent*, abſorption takes place,

place, producing a ſecondary fever; and as a proof of the neceſſity of purging after this diſorder, if purging medicines are not given in due time, a ſpontaneous purging comes on.

In the ſtrangles, the humour ſeparated from the conſtitution is thrown upon one particular part of the body, producing a large ſwelling, which always burſts, and a plentiful and perfect diſcharge of the morbid matter is thereby effected; and no abſorption taking place, purging we conceive unneceſſary; and we ſee no ſpontaneous purging here enſues, nor any bad conſequence from the omiſſion of purging doſes. We apprehend Mr. Taplin's idea of the neceſſity of purging after the ſtrangles, ariſes from his manner of accounting for the diſeaſe—in the *groſſneſs* and *viſcidity* of the humours; and his directing mercurial phyſic, we think, further ſhews it: but as we take

take this to be a *groſs* miſtake, the neceſſity for phyſic, we ſay, has no exiſtence; and we depend on the reaſons advanced, for our credit with the reader. But Mr. Taplin contradicts himſelf, and refutes his own argument in ſupport of an opinion " that he has ſo amply and fully conſidered;" he makes the diſorder ſo general, " that it attacks each ſubject to a certainty;" this we have ſaid is not true, many horſes never having the diſtemper: " And thoſe," he ſays, " that have been conſtantly well fed for ſeveral years, muſt have imbibed an accumulation of impurities, or his groſſneſs and viſcidity of the humours."—Mr. Taplin ſeems fully aware, that all colts are not thus luxurioufly reared; as he ſays, " *thoſe* that have been treated in that way;" which certainly make but a ſmall part of the whole, yet he ſays " all have the diſorder;" and as a ſmall part only have been in the

way

way of contracting this diſorder, from Mr. Taplin's *cauſe*, whence happens it to the others, and very many of them half-ſtarved animals? All we can ſay at preſent to this matter is, that giving Mr. Taplin credit as far and where we can for his *groſſneſs* and *viſcidity* of the humours, we are obliged to obſerve, that in much the greater number of caſes, this cauſe has had no ſhare in producing the diſeaſe; and Mr. Taplin muſt allow us to ſay, that where that cauſe does not exiſt, we muſt look for another; but as Mr. Taplin's book ſells ſo very rapidly, we ſhall be in daily hopes of this matter being fully and philoſophically cleared up in his next edition.

In the management of this diſorder, we have adviſed the taking away blood, when the ſwelling and inflammation threaten to be very conſiderable, and the fever great; we

we do not recommend this as an opinion unſupported, (a thouſand of which we reckon not worth a farthing;) but we adduce our reaſons, and quote the opinions of the firſt writers in phyſic and farriery; —emollient poultices to forward the ſuppuration and breaking of the ſwelling, and afterwards to promote the diſcharge; but after the breaking of the ſwellings, a warm digeſtive ointment, as the common ſtable digeſtive, or baſilicon, is to be applied to the ſores at each dreſſing, ſpread upon clean tow or coarſe lint, and covered with a plentiful poultice; the dreſſings will be conveniently kept on with a proper cloth, and ſtrings or tape faſtened to the corners, and tied behind the ears and round the head, a convenient ſpace under the eyes. —The common turnip-poultice, a bread-poultice, or linſeed-meal, with a little lard or gooſe-oil, will be as good as any; it will

be uſeful to ſinge the hair from the ſwelling with a candle, and which indeed is a pretty common cuſtom with farriers; the proper diet of the horſe, as maſhes of bran or malt, will be apt to keep the belly ſufficiently open; if not, glyſters are the beſt means of preventing coſtiveneſs. Horſes commonly ſwallow with great difficulty in this diſorder, but corn, hay or graſs, better than water; perhaps one reaſon may be, their not ſtooping ſo low to hay, &c. for they ſwallow water better when raiſed to them, than when the head is ſunk low to the water.

Mr. Taplin's purſuit and our's, we obſerve, is the ſame—the promulgation and eſtabliſhment of truth; and which ever ſide prevails with the public, the other will be meritoriouſly acquitted, in having well intended. If Mr. Taplin's ſyſtem is not overturned,

turned, we will ſhift our ground, and avail ourſelves of the opportunity he has afforded us of applying his doctrines and ideas to the diſeaſes of man; and then we will ſay, the ſmall-pox, meaſles, &c. are owing to an accummulation of impurities, and groſſneſs and viſcidity of the humours: a difficulty ſeems here to meet us; as conſtitutions in the pureſt and moſt perfect ſtate of health, are liable to, and readily infected by theſe diſorders; and the habit of body being, as we ſuppoſe, cleanſed of all groſſneſs and impurities, by the termination of one diſorder, the other often preſently follows.

Since writing the above, I have had an opportunity of peruſing *Bracken*'s Farriery, which was become very ſcarce; he gives us two chapters on the ſtrangles; and we have the pleaſure of finding, we begin our little treatiſe with this diſorder for the ſame rea-

ſon *Bracken* did ſo—becauſe it is commonly the firſt diſorder horſes are ſubject to; and we are careful to profit by Bracken's miſtake, by making our preſent little work ſo ſhort, that we may not forget before we finiſh, that we made the ſtrangles our firſt chapter; and ſo embelliſh our little volume with a duplicate of chapters on the ſame diſeaſe.

Dr. Bracken in his firſt chapter deſcribes the ſtrangles, and ſays, it ſeems not to differ greatly from the quinſey in human bodies; here we have wholly differed from him, and to our reaſons already given, we will add one more—the quinſey is a diſorder that comes on in a few hours, or ſmall ſpace of time, from a ſtate of health, upon taking cold; the infection of the ſtrangles is lurking (like unto the *ſmall-pox* or *hooping-cough,)* for a time in the conſtitution, before the diſorder breaks out. He takes notice

notice of Monſ. *Solleyſell*'s comparing it to the ſmall-pox, and admits the compariſon; he obſerves, that moſt colts, but (as we have obſerved) not all, have the ſtrangles; and he thinks, contrary to Mr. Taplin, that good feeding and nouriſhment are means of preventing, rather than occaſioning the diſorder; having bred ſeveral colts himſelf, that never had the ſtrangles; and this ſeems, he ſays, to contradict what he had advanced before, of the ſtrangles being implanted in the very nature of horſes;—by this he means his admitting the compariſon of it to the ſmall-pox: we have conſidered theſe as *innate* diſorders, which muſt mean the ſame thing as being implanted in the nature of the conſtitution. He recommends ripening and bringing the ſwellings to ſuppuration, or burſt; and as Bartlet and others have copied his excellent poultice for that purpoſe, we will inſert here

Bracken's

Bracken's emollient poultice:—"Take leaves of mallows, and marſh-mallows (green or dry) each ten handfuls; white lily-root, half a pound; boil theſe very ſoft in water, and preſs them out ſtrongly; then take linſeed and fenugreek ſeed, each four ounces; bruiſe them, and boil them in two quarts of water, ſlowly, till it become of a mucilaginous conſiſtence; after which, ſtir and beat it up well with the leaves and roots; add four ounces of ointment of marſhmallows, and one pound of rendered hogs'-lard; mix all well."

Bracken ſays nothing of purging after the ſtrangles: he begins his ſecond chapter on this diſeaſe, in telling us, it ſcarce needs any deſcription, not becauſe he had deſcribed it in a former chapter, but becauſe he ſays it is known to all; but now he maintains another kind of doctrine, and tells

tells us, if the ſwellings are recent, or of ſhort ſtanding, the diſeaſe may perhaps be cured by the firſt intention, or by diſperſing the ſwellings, and not ſuffering the humours to come to ſuppuration; but this method he propoſes on the idea of the ſtrangles bearing an affinity to the quinſey in man; and, as we conſider the nature of the diſorders totally different, we reckon this repelling method improper and impracticable. The quinſey being an accidental inflammation and ſwelling of the glands of the throat, it admits, no doubt, with all propriety, repelling means, to ſubdue the inflammation, and diſperſe the ſwellings, before there is any tendency to ſuppuration; but if the ſtrangles be an *innate* diſorder, or as Bracken has it, implanted in the very nature of a horſe, it is, we ſay, the very nature and immutable law of the diſtemper, to produce a ſwelling, inflammation and ſuppuration,

puration, between the jaws; and, by the burſting of the ſwelling, (like the ſmall-pox, by puſtules of matter on the ſurface of the body), to be thus diſcharged from the conſtitution.

We find Bracken, in his ſecond volume, changing his ſentiments, and ſaying, he is nearly of opinion, that it is poſſible to bring up a horſe ſo as to prevent his ever having the ſtrangles: we need only ſay to this matter, that he has no better ſupport in this opinion, than ſeveral horſes of his own rearing never having the diſorder; and to give this very ſuperficial and weak opinion ſomething of a proof, we find him contradicting himſelf. Solleyſell, he ſays, "has compared the ſtrangles to the ſmall-pox in mankind; therefore he imagines, the colts muſt bring the diſtemper along with them from the dam's belly."—We do not perceive that

that *Solleyſell* had any ſuch idea, the ſtrangles, he ſays, are the throwing forth of ſuperfluous humours from foals, commonly through the noſtrils, ſometimes by ſwellings under the throat, or in other parts. It is, he ſays, a northern diſtemper; "bearing ſome reſemblance of the ſmall-pox in children:" this does in nowiſe, we think, imply, that *Solleyſell* thought it an *innate* diſorder, or brought, with the foals, from the dam's belly. But we recollect *Bracken*, in his firſt chapter on this diſeaſe, admits the propriety of the compariſon of it to the ſmall-pox in theſe words: "No doubt, as it moſtly happens to colts, it may, not without reaſon, bear an affinity to the ſmall-pox;" but now he is become of another opinion, and ſays, though "that doctrine may ſeem like ſound reaſoning, on a ſtrict ſcrutiny it will be found only flouriſhing upon the matter; for the ſtrangles are produced by catching cold, &c." We

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muſt obſerve, we wiſh to peruſe *Bracken*, or other authors, not for the purpoſe of refuting their arguments, by making them contradict themſelves.

FEVERS.

MR. Taplin obſerves, the neceſſity of ſome reformation in the practice of *farriery* never influenced him more in a conviction of that want, than did a thorough inveſtigation of what has been ſaid by the beſt authors on fevers. By the manner of Mr. Taplin's entering on the ſubject, his profeſſing to have "given it a thorough inveſtigation, &c." his readers are certainly led to expect ſomething from him very much to the purpoſe. "Bartlet," he ſays,

"purpoſely

" purpoſely avoids giving deſcriptions of diſeaſes ; or ſo much as gueſſing at the cauſes *within*, which bring them about."— Mr. Taplin with his uſual ſeverity towards authors, goes on, remarking on this conduct of *Bartlet*, " What," ſays he, " could have been his motives for purpoſely concealing what in a practical treatiſe had every right to be revealed, I know not ; and what his reaſons could be, he leaves entirely to the private opinion of others ;" making public however upon that circumſtance one of his own ; " that whoever is a ſtranger to the *origin* of diſeaſe, muſt be conſequently ſo to every method and rational ſyſtem of cure :" this he thinks clear to the meaneſt, and moſt uncultivated comprehenſion. Here I would aſk Mr. *Taplin* what he knows of the *origin* of an ague, and his anſwer I believe muſt be, nothing ; and I am ſorry for his patients if he is equally ignorant of every rational

method of cure: one of the firſt phyſicians this country ever produced, declared his perfect ignorance of either the ſeat or cauſe of this diſeaſe; and I believe the preſent venerable and worthy *preſident* will ſubſcribe to the ſame acknowledgement for himſelf and the whole college; yet ſurely though we know nothing of the origin, ſeat, or cauſe of this diſeaſe, Mr. *Taplin* will allow us now, after long experience and obſervation in the diſorder, to be pretty perfect in a rational and ſucceſsful method of cure; namely—by the uſe of a ſpecific, which by chance, like many other important diſcoveries, phyſic became acquainted with; and to direct us in a proper uſe of which, in this diſorder, we obſerve the violence and duration of the *paroxyſms*, the length of the intermiſſions; and we have learned, that a perfect intermiſſion is neceſſary to a full dependence on the power of the febrifuge:

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we are well acquainted with the means of abating the violence and duration of the paroxyſm; and the ſame remedies will forward and perfect the intermiſſion, and will be uſefully adminiſtered in the time of the paroxyſms, as long as they continue to return; the duration of the intermiſſion guides us, or however ſhould, in the manner or frequency of giving the febrifuge.—Thus much in reply to Mr. Taplin's opinion of the neceſſity of an acquaintance with the origin or cauſe of a diſeaſe, to be enabled to apply a proper or rational method of relief; and we believe, the ſmall-pox, meaſles, chicken-pox, and hooping-cough, are inſtances equally ſtrong in point againſt him: Mr. *Gibſon* here comes in for his ſhare of Mr. Taplin's ſtrictures and ſeverity on all authors he has conſulted and quoted; Mr. Gibſon, he ſays, contrary to *Bartlet*, (whoſe work, by the bye, is little more than an abridg-

abridgment of Gibſon,) has obliged us in the very quinteſſence of prolixity and complication, by elaborately going through, what may be termed a compleat ſyſtem of imaginary fevers; and transferring the obſervations and language of ancient authors upon the human ſpecies, to the conſtitution of quadrupeds; enlarging upon each ſubject, and concluding in an inexplicable jargon upon the whole; as, he ſays, does alſo *Oſmer*, who wrote in later times; the few remedies recommended being left, in reſpect to quantity and proportion, entirely at the diſcretion of the reader.

Mr. Taplin, after reprobating with his uſual ſeverity, the conduct of *Bartlet*, in avoiding a particular deſcription of diſeaſes, or endeavouring to account for their *origin* or cauſe, acknowledges himſel the impoſſibility of doing ſo.—Page 231, Mr. Taplin makes

makes public this one great opinion of *his own*, that "whoever is a ſtranger to the origin of diſeaſe, muſt be conſequently ſo to every method and rational ſyſtem of cure:" In page 233, "every intelligent obſerver muſt be convinced of the improbability, not to ſay, what might be very well juſtified, the impoſſibility of diſcovering by ſilent ſymptoms and ocular inſpection, the *origin*, cauſe, or indeed diſtemper itſelf."—Facts are ſtubborn things!

Mr. Taplin reduces the variety of fevers given us by other writers to two, the ſymptomatic and inflammatory: on this head we wiſh to give him credit; we believe the different kinds of fevers of horſes to be few in number, in compariſon to thoſe of man; and we profeſs a much greater ſatisfaction in the peruſal of Mr. Taplin, or any other author, to meet with ideas and arguments

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to admire and be pleaſed with, than ſuch as we muſt think faulty and futile; but yet we think ourſelves warranted in ſaying, horſes are ſubject to fevers not of the inflammatory kind; their epidemics are frequently as general and ſevere as thoſe of the human ſpecies; and we conſider the nature of epidemics to be very ſeldom inflammatory, witneſs the *influenzas* of our own memory: the laſt in particular, though moſt ſevere and formidable as well as general in its attack, was on all hands and everywhere found not of the inflammatory temper.

It has been repeatedly urged, Mr. Taplin informs us, by authors of repute, that "every fever is one and the ſame diſorder, appearing differently according to the various circumſtances it meets with in different conſtitutions:" much, he ſays, may be

be advanced in favour of this aſſertion; but it not being his preſent purpoſe to diſcuſs ſo extenſive a ſubject, he drops it: what can have been his reaſons, I leave entirely to the private opinions of others; making known only one of my own—that Mr. Taplin's great abilities can never be employed on a more intereſting and uſeful point. But we venture to ſay, we have fevers of a perfect diſtinct kind; namely, purely inflammatory, and malignant or infectious; and that the moſt robuſt and healthy conſtitution, though certainly not ſo liable to be attacked, yet if infection here takes place, the goodneſs of the conſtitution does not alter the nature of the infection, nor the conſequent diſorder. Mr. Taplin affirms, "the fever of horſes is moſtly that diſtinct kind called inflammatory;" and we are of the ſame opinion; not, however, granting it to be a rule without exceptions.

Mr. Taplin here reminds every one employed in *farriery*, that frequently upon his learned deciſion alone, depends the life or death of this moſt valuable animal; therefore "he ſhould not only be cautiouſly nice in the diſcrimination of diſeaſe, but, by attending minutely to circumſtances, endeavour to develope the myſterious indications of Nature, cover all her wants, and ſtrengthen every effort." This is certainly very true; and it muſt be equally true, that the beſt writers on farriery is he who gives the fulleſt and plaineſt directions for obtaining theſe ends; we read Mr. Taplin's book for that purpoſe; but here we have not a ray of information. "To become the more adequate to this taſk of integrity, the practitioner ſhould be anxiouſly careful to improve his judgment, and adopt the known qualities of medicines to the expectation of their effects:" theſe qualities of medicines

may

may be known to Mr. Taplin; and I certainly was in hopes of being able to reap ſome of this knowledge from his Stable Directory; but I am utterly diſappointed;—" to have in view, upon every emergency, the operations from which certain or probable relief is to be obtained; and to promote thoſe ends by every *fair* and *gentle* means that may be juſtified by circumſtances, or dictated by diſcretion." Some men are famed for ſaying a great deal in a few words, whilſt others are profuſe and prolix in inſtructions, without conveying any information: Having loſt my way going from Cheltenham to Glouceſter, an entire ſtranger in the country, upon enquiring the beſt way of the firſt perſon I met, I was directed to croſs Farmer John's *ſturt medow*, then to go ſtraight up the zummer-houſe vield, down the *link gate*, croſs the quarry cloſe, up the *mill vield*, and down the *mill*

 medow.—

medow.—I ſtared; and my guide wondered I did not underſtand him, and proceed on my way. I ſaid, I did not know Farmer *John* or Farmer *Dick*, or any one in the country;—but that's the way you mun go, replied my director.

Our Stable Directory ſays, I muſt have in view, the operations from which relief is to be obtained, and to promote thoſe ends by every *fair* and *gentle* means that may be juſtified by circumſtances, &c. &c. No one, I imagine, reads the *Stable Directory* to be told he ſhould endeavour to relieve the ſick and diſtreſſed animal, by the ſafeſt and moſt promiſing means; but to learn what thoſe means are, and to have their propriety and promiſing utility explained and pointed out.

Mr. *Taplin* does not enter into a tedious diſquiſition upon the origin of Fevers, their

different degrees and effects, " becauſe it would exhauſt the patience of the moſt patient enquirer." To enumerate the cauſes which may produce a fever, would be equally impracticable in his book; but obſerves, they are ſo much more ſymtomatic than ſelf-exiſting, that circumſtances and careful attention only, muſt lead to the diſcovery (thoſe that can receive it, let them receive it); but we are told, there is not the leaſt doubt but a general cutaneous obſtruction, or ſudden conſtriction upon the perſpirable pores, proceeding from what cauſe ſoever, will conſtitute the foundation of every fever to which the animal can poſſibly be ſubject:—This doctrine can only be admitted in caſes of inflammation; it certainly will not apply to contagious or infectious diſorders. In reſpect to ſymptoms, he ſays, the inſpection muſt be made with care and attention: the general modes of

enquiry

enquiry are ſuperficial, and, he obſerves, the deciſion often fallacious. " The pathognomonic or certain ſigns, are, univerſal heat, and diſordered pulſe, diſquietude and uneaſineſs, ſhifting from place to place; the horſe labours under difficult reſpiration, his mouth is very dry, tongue parched and hot; he declines food, but receives water, the body is generally coſtive, and, in the early ſtate of diſeaſe, there is a proportional obſtruction of urine." Let a fever proceed from whatever cauſe, the indications of cure are ſtill the ſame. " Diminiſh, he ſays, the preternatural heat to the degree that conſtitutes health, remove all internal obſtructions, and, by a proper and judicious adminiſtration of medicines, (calculated to ſubdue the original cauſe), all dependent ſymptoms will certainly ſubſide." We are very apprehenſive there is no abſolute certainty in this matter; but that the original cauſe

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of diſeaſes, and dependent ſymptoms, will now and then baffle and fatally ſet at defiance all remedies, even under the moſt judicious adminiſtration of our author himſelf. And we do not conceive, with Mr. Taplin, the indications of cure in fevers are always the ſame; however, the ends wiſhed for, are not always to be hoped for, or even aimed at, by the ſame means.

The firſt neceſſary ſtep, Mr. Taplin tells us, to "a rectification of ſuch inflammatory or diſeaſed ſtate of the blood, is a reduction in quantity." Mr. Taplin confines his ideas here to inflammation; and certainly nothing more concerns *phyſic* and *farriery* than does the doctrine of inflammation; but we think he had better have ſhortened this ſentence by the two words, "or diſeaſed:" Does not this expreſſion following inflammatory, imply a diſeaſed ſtate of blood different from inflam-

inflammation? If it does not mean that, it means nothing. However, we take that to be ſometimes the caſe in horſes, though not by any means ſo frequent as in man; and Mr. Taplin very well knows, that as evacuations, and antiphlogiſtics or cooling remedies, in inflammatory caſes; ſo a plentiful uſe of wine and cordials, in other kinds of fevers, diminiſh the heat, and regulate the pulſe. Mr. Taplin affords us no aſſiſtance towards acquiring a knowledge of the degree of diſeaſe from the ſtate of the pulſe; ſaying nothing of its *rate* in fevers, or in health: indeed, it is a misfortune in farriery, that a horſe's pulſe is not ſo readily to be felt and counted as in man; Mr. Bartlett *rates* it, in health, at forty pulſations in a minute, a very few ſtrokes over or under; conſequently, ſomewhat more than half the frequency of the pulſe in man; and conſequently, we ſuppoſe, an encreaſe of ten pulſations

ſations in a horſe will conſtitute a degree of fever, equal to the encreaſe of about twenty ſtrokes in man.

Mr. Bartlett tells us, "the pulſe of a horſe is readily felt by laying the hand on the neck, a little above the cheſt, on the inſide of the fore leg; or, by laying the hand on the near ſide, the beating of the heart will be perceived." Whoever makes the trial, I believe, will find it very difficult to feel a horſe's pulſe, either of theſe ways, except the beating of the heart. Mr. Clarke, a farrier of great repute in the north, in his late publication, ſays, the pulſe of a horſe, in health, is from 36 to 40 beats in a minute; and feels the pulſe by the temple artery, about an inch and half behind the upper corner of the eye: it is here rather obſcure; but I believe it is the moſt certain place of finding it, except by the beating of the

heart. I am ſorry to ſay, theſe gentlemen's account of the pulſe is very erroneous; and I acknowledge, I was not ſo perfectly aware of that circumſtance, till lately in a converſation with an ingenious gentleman, who is now proſecuting his ſtudies in London, with every advantage of a medical education; and who, after ſpending ſome time in the *Veterinarian Academy* in *Paris*, intends returning to this country, to practiſe *Farriery*.—By carefully attending to the pulſe of horſes in health, with the beſt ſtop-watches, I find this gentleman is right; and inſtead of its being 40, or from 36 to 40 ſtrokes in a minute, its rate, in a healthy ſtate, is 50 or 52 beats in a minute. How the above quoted gentlemen could have been ſo culpably inattentive, in a matter ſo truly important and neceſſary to be known, as the rate of the pulſe, is ſurely not a little ſurpriſing: however, the pulſe in a horſe cannot be thought

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to be quicker now than 40 or 50 years ago, or quicker in England than in Scotland. It will be neceſſary to enable a perſon to judge of the pulſe in diſeaſe, to attend to it in ſome meaſure, and know its ſtate in health; otherwiſe, though we can determine as to the circulation, by means of a ſtop-watch or minute ſand-glaſs, whether it be quicker or ſlower than in health, we cannot determine as to its fullneſs and ſtrength, whether encreaſed or diminiſhed. We now do ourſelves the ſatisfaction and credit of being the firſt, I believe, in giving a true ſtate of a horſe's pulſe; but yet we do not infer, though the pulſe in a horſe is ſo much ſlower, that the circulation is leſs rapid than in man.—Bracken is equally miſtaken with other authors as to the ſtate of the pulſe; and conſiders a horſe in ſo high a fever, when his pulſe beats 50 in a minute, that he ſays it

is unſafe then to purge a horſe with their common purging doſes.

If the horſe be coſtive, Mr. Taplin directs the immediate uſe of an emollient glyſter, made of two quarts of water-gruel, half a pound of coarſe ſugar, four ounces, or a handful of ſalt, olive oil a quarter of a pint; to be given moderately warm. If this glyſter has not the deſired effect in four hours, Mr. Taplin adviſes a repetition of it, and made a little ſtronger;—which advice we think very proper:—in two or three hours after the effect of the glyſter, the horſe is to to have a maſh of ſcalded bran, with a handful of oats, if the horſe will not eat it alone. —We do not ſee any reaſon for waiting theſe two or three hours; we rather adviſe, in the application of remedies in fevers, no time to be loſt. Next, the horſe is to be gently rubbed over, moderately cloathed, and well littered

littered up, but after having given him one ounce of *nitre* diſſolved in a ſmall draught of warm water, ſlightly impregnated with thin gruel. Mr. Taplin, we think, ſhould have ſpecified the quantity of liquid he would give this doſe of *nitre* in, nearer than we can underſtand by a ſmall draught; becauſe the pungency of the nitre, in a ſmall quantity of liquid, may be painful and uneaſy upon the ſtomach even of a horſe: we think this doſe of nitre ſhould not be given in leſs than two quarts of liquid.

Previous to his further directions in the treatment of fevers, Mr. Taplin thinks it neceſſary to ſay ſomething upon the quality and indiſcriminate uſe of that excellent article, *nitre;* the purpoſes of which, he ſays, are ſo frequently proſtituted in its general application, by all claſſes and in all caſes, in compliment to Bartlet's unlimited eulogiums;

eulogiums; who has ſtamped it with his opinion, ſo great a ſpecific, that a few obſervations on its virtues and *real uſes*, become immediately neceſſary to the propriety of its future adminiſtration being better underſtood.

Oſmer, he ſays, was likewiſe ſo infatuated with its reported perfections, that he became an advocate for its unlimited utility; urging the adminiſtration of it to almoſt any proportion upon every occaſion, though at the ſame time he confeſſes, ſome horſes ſhall not be able to take the ſmalleſt quantity, without being affected with *gripes* or *cholic*: this ſhews the neceſſity of the doſes of nitre a horſe takes being well diluted.—That it is cooling, allays thirſt, promotes the ſecretions, and is a uſeful aſſiſtant likewiſe in a courſe of alteratives, Mr. Taplin ſays, is admitted; but how far it is eligible

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to give it in fevers, in the very large proportions recommended by Bartlet and Oſmer, will be beſt decided by his giving the matter a farther inveſtigation; for inſtance, he (Oſmer, I ſuppoſe Mr. Taplin means) urges the adminiſtration of it to attenuate and thin the denſe ſizy blood, during the effect of inflammatory fever, (during the *continuance*, we think it ſhould have been wrote, inſtead of the *effect* of inflammatory fever,) and then in theſe views he is well warranted in its uſe, being a remedy in ſuch caſes moſt powerful and certain in its effects; but yet Mr. Taplin thinks, the conſequence of giving ſuch large quantities as *three* or *four* ounces three times a-day, muſt be, to ſo affect the ſyſtem of circulation as to diſſolve the very craſſamentum of the blood, and reduce it to an abſolute ſerum or aqueous vapour:— "Theſe quantities we certainly think greater than any caſe can require." That *nitre* has its

its peculiar good qualities and ſalutary effects when prudently adminiſtered, no rational practitioner, Mr. Taplin thinks, will ever deny; but the variety of experiments repeatedly made upon its efficacy, by the moſt eminent profeſſors, ſince the practice of Gibſon, Bracken, and Bartlet, has undoubtedly, he ſays, deprived it of a conſiderable portion of its former eſtimation.

It ſurely is to be wiſhed Mr. Taplin had informed us what thoſe experiments upon nitre were, by whom made, &c. &c. as by ſo doing, ſome of his readers might have been enabled to judge of their fallacy or certainty; and many experiments have been made (by ingenious men) on different articles of the materia medica, that have been proved very fallacious and idle; however, we venture to ſay, that thoſe who make a fair trial of nitre, as a powerful attenuant and

and antiphlogiſtic, or cooler, in inflammatory caſes, will not be diſappointed. We are aware of the light eſtimation it is held in by ſome authorities: an eminent profeſſor of the preſent day, reprobates the uſe of nitre, as inſignificant and trifling; and, in order to fix the attention, or to render his arguments more perſuaſive with his pupils, introduces a pun—" that it is frequently a very powerful ſedative, from the mouth of a muſket or cannon;" and in our humble opinion, and with all due deference, the profeſſor's time would be much better ſpent faſt aſleep, than in inculcating ſuch doctrine.

Taking it therefore, with the properties it is poſſeſſed of and entitled to, Mr. Taplin ventures to pronounce, its good effects can only be obtained by judicious adminiſtrations of ſuch proportions as are properly

calculated to promote the purpoſes for which they are deſigned: Who ſays this is not a bold aſſertion of Mr. Taplin's? but it certainly is equally true; and to be equally bold, we venture to pronounce he may ſay the ſame of every article in food and phyſic; in the former indeed moſt of Mr. Taplin's readers, no doubt, are competent to this judicious and proper uſe; but in medicine, in an article ſo material, and of ſuch conſequential power as nitre, it ſurely would not have been amiſs for Mr. Taplin to have favoured his readers with ſome irradiating rules and maxims, towards this proper and judicious adminiſtration of it. "The inconſiſtency (he obſerves) of blending it in large quantities, with medicines intended to promote perſpiration, is palpably ſtriking; as it is well known to every medical practitioner, its intermediation would rather tend to deſtroy the earneſt

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intent of the whole:" We believe nitre is very properly, as it is very frequently, blended with medicine to promote perſpiration.—I ſhould hardly ſuppoſe Mr. Taplin has neglected to read the works of that truly great, inſtructing and uſeful author, Dr. Huxham; nor yet ſhould I ſuppoſe he could forget ſo material and ſtriking a paſſage as I am about to quote: When the circulation is too quick, and the heat of the body intenſe, he ſays, "you give warm diaphoretic medicines, to promote perſpiration, in vain; but reduce the over-quick circulation and heat of the body, and a ſweat readily breaks forth; and to which end, nitre is moſt aptly and advantageouſly given with the other kind of medicines:"—This, or ſomething like this, on the ſubject before us, is the language of Huxham.

But given in ſmall quantities, as half an ounce, or an ounce, once or twice a-day

in the beginning of fevers, Mr. Taplin ſays, with good nurſing, it may frequently have a very good effect; but ſhould the predominant ſymptom not ſubmit to that treatment, no larger doſes of nitre, he ſays, ſhould be ventured upon.—Upon the non-ſubmiſſion of ſymptoms to theſe means, Mr. Taplin purſues a contrary plan; but he has not in any meaſure determined how long the foregoing method is to be tried.

Upon the non-ſubmiſſion of inflammatory ſymptoms, we think, inſtead of giving up the uſe of nitre, we ought to increaſe the doſe; namely, if the encreaſed circulation continues, the pulſe is ſtill full and hard, and the blood ſtill fizy, we are warranted in taking more blood away, and perſiſting ſteadily and boldly in the uſe of the attenuating antiphlogiſtic remedy; " but we think, from ſix drams or three quarters of

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an ounce, to an ounce and half at farthest, every three or four hours; a dose sufficient in any case." The symptoms of inflammation, just mentioned, carefully attended to, are sure guides how long to proceed in this way; we have mentioned the propriety of giving the nitre in a good quantity of liquid, the state of the intestines is to be attended to, and Mr. Taplin's emollient glyster given occasionally; and if the disorder does not abate in two or three days, we would take more blood, a quart or three pints; and it being still sizy, we proceed, but think it useful now to add to each dose of nitre, from three to six drams of compound powder of contrayerva, and a moderate dose of the antimonial fever-powder of the New London Dispensatory, from twenty grains to thirty, or in its stead, from six to ten grains of emetic tartar; if it will be afforded, we would also recommend the neutral or

salt

ſalt of wormwood mixture, to be added to the preceding doſes of nitre; by neutral mixture we mean lemon-juice, ſaturated with ſalt of wormwood, or pot-aſh may be uſed inſtead of ſalt of wormwood, ſix or eight ounces of this mixture for one doſe. In the uſe of theſe remedies we ſteadily and diligently perſiſt, till the inflammatory ſymptoms give way, then we judge no other kind of medicines neceſſary for the horſe's recovery, but continue the ſame in ſmaller doſes, and leſs frequent.

Before we quit the matter under conſideration, we inform ourſelves, and our readers, with the opinion of the lateſt writer, the Claſſical Farrier, publiſhed by Mr. *Merrick.* Mr. Merrick at the end of his book of upwards of 800 pages, to give his readers a ſtill further knowledge of phyſic in the practice of farriery, adds a ſupplement

ment with a liſt of the moſt uſeful drugs, &c. and an account of their natures, qualities, and medicinal virtues. Here we find this account of nitre: *Salt of Nitre*—It removes all groſs obſtructions, and opens the pores of the ſkin, through which the hot and fiery particles are exhaled, and ſtimulates the ducts and glands to a more copious ſecretion of lymph, moiſtens the body, relaxes and ſoftens parts ſpaſmodically contracted. Three or four pages further, we have a further account of *Nitre*, under its other name *Saltpetre*—" Now it is become cooling, and a cleanſer of the urinary ducts, being a great diuretic." Why Mr. Merrick has divided his account of *Nitre*, under its two different names of nitre and ſaltpetre, we do not ſee; ſurely he muſt know that ſalt of nitre and ſaltpetre, is one and the ſame article, ſold under theſe different names, which is the caſe of ſeveral articles

of

of the apothecary's ſhop, as Peruvian Bark, known alſo by the name of Jeſuit's Bark; yet ſurely Mr. Merrick does not know nitre and ſaltpetre to be the ſame thing, for he gives it different qualities under the different names. In his printed propoſals and advertiſements, Mr. Merrick did his work the credit of his having the aſſiſtance of ſeveral eminent phyſicians and ſurgeons; but we muſt acquit phyſicians and ſurgeons of having any concern, however, in the ſupplement.

Mr. Merrick, in his preface, ſpeaks with uncontrouled ſeverity and freedom, of his brethren of the profeſſion, who, he ſays, "with ignorant preſcriptions undertake the practice of horſe medicine:" theſe men, he proceeds, "diſgrace that rare character—a ſurgeon-farrier; and, under the aſſumed appellation of vulgar dignity, a horſe-doctor,

tax

tax owners without conſcience, deal deſtruction without remorſe, and prove in reality, ſo many executioners." The indiſcriminate and common uſe of nitre among ſuch perſons as have commonly the care of horſes, is ridiculous and abſurd: by ſome of theſe (knowing little or nothing more of the conſequences and effects of large dozes of nitre than the poor horſe that ſwallows it), you will be told, they give nitre to cool, without the ſhadow of a reaſon that the animal wants cooling. They give nitre to thin the blood, without knowing that it is as likely to want thickening; unleſs indeed, we are to be told it will circulate the more readily and eaſily, as water is more apt of motion than ſyrup or treacle:—With as much ſhew of reaſoning, you may be told, by way of rendering the animal a more than common piece of ſervice, it would be better to take all his blood away, it being

but a trouble to him, and he would be much better without it.

They will give nitre (a medicine capable of impoveriſhing the blood, and thus reducing the ſtrength of the conſtitution, more than any other article of the apothecary's ſhop, that is not an immediate poiſon) to ſtrengthen the horſe; if the horſe is weak, from too much health and ſtrength of conſtitution, (which may poſſibly happen, too much health becoming diſeaſe) nitre indeed, is then the thing of all others to make him ſtrong.

In low fevers, or the *epidemics* of horſes, when the pulſe is quick, but neither full nor hard, nor yet the blood ſizy, we recommend the ſame medicines, in the ſame manner continued, till the diſorder is removed; but here *omit* the nitre, and take no

no blood, except a ſmall quantity for the ſake of knowing its ſtate.—We look upon this moderate method adapted to all the fevers of horſes.

Mr. Taplin with ſome inconſiſtency, reduces the fevers of horſes to two kinds, ſymptomatic and inflammatory; he attacks this inflammatory fever with taking away blood, an emollient glyſter, and one doſe of nitre; then quits the ſubject to deſcribe the qualities of nitre; after this, finiſhes his management of this diſorder, with telling us, "ſmall doſes of nitre, once or twice a-day at the beginning of fevers, may have a very good effect; but ſhould the predominant ſymptoms not ſubmit to this treatment, no larger doſes of nitre ſhould be ventured upon;" and inſtead of, as we think he ſhould (and from his own words, "the ſame predominant ſymptom conti-

"nuing") encreaſing the doſes of nitre in quantity, and frequency, after this trifling puſillanimous ſtand our hero has made againſt this formidable attack of *inflammation*, he gives up the conteſt, and without any reaſon from a change in the diſorder by nature, or even his own ideas; for he ſays, the ſame ſymptoms (of inflammation) continuing, he gives balls of mithridate, ſnake-root, and ſalt of hartſhorn, every ſix or eight hours; or inſtead of theſe balls, a drink compoſed of infuſion of camomile, Mindererus's ſpirit, ſaffron wine, and antimonial wine, to be continued till relief is obtained, or *circumſtances* urge an alteration in the mode of treatment.—I think it would have been nothing more than civil and proper for Mr. Taplin to have told us (and for my part, I am altogether in want of information) "what the circumſtances are," that beſpeak an alteration in the plan,

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during the uſe of the drinks or balls; our author ſays, ſmall quantities of liquid, about two quarts, (three parts water and one gruel) ſhould be given every three or four hours; in each draught of which may be given, half an ounce of nitre, or an ounce of cream of tartar. Very lately Mr. Taplin reprobated the inconſiſtency of blending nitre with medicines intended to promote perſpiration; here he gives it to the quantity of four ounces in 24 hours, with mithridate, contrayerva powder, ſnake-root, and ſalt of hartſhorn; and his profeſſed intention of theſe medicines is to promote perſpiration: He ſtrenuouſly recommends this mode of treatment, as a ſyſtem eſtabliſhed upon the principles of reaſon and reformation, the reſult of attentive ſtudy, accurate obſervation, and long experience.

Mr. Taplin having enlarged on the nature and treatment of ſuch febrile complaints

plaints as frequently come under common obſervation, adverts to the conſideration of epidemics: As epidemics, he ſays, appear differently at different ſeaſons, varying in ſymptoms, no accurate deſcription can be collected from books; in conſequence of the great fatality attending epidemic diſorders, he concludes they are more entitled to conſideration as peſtilential diſeaſe than any other; "and nature ſinking under the *putrid* or *malignant* miaſma, diſplays the oppreſſion ſhe labours under in ſymptoms ſo very uncertain, that no literary deſcription can accurately correſpond with."

"It will therefore," he ſays, "be highly neceſſary to attend particularly to ſymptoms, and proceed accordingly; at any rate, blood is to be taken, (in quantity correſponding with condition,) that its quality may be the better aſcertained; ſhould the inteſtines be obſtructed,

obſtructed, a gently-ſtimulating emollient glyſter is directly neceſſary :"—To this we certainly have no kind of objection, the glyſter we mean.—" The appetite is to be attended to, and gratified in maſhes of malt and bran, bran and oats, or plain bran, ſtirring into it four ounces of honey :" here alſo we join Mr. Taplin. Common drink, he ſays, of gruel impregnated with nitre, or cream of tartar, as before directed.

Notwithſtanding the obligations we ly under to Mr. Taplin, Mr. Merrick, with his aſſiſtants, and other inſtructing writers, we venture to pronounce, that the preſent ſtate of Farriery is not competent to the ſaying, horſes are ſubject to putrid fevers; but if they are, we muſt condemn Mr. Taplin's management of the diſorder, as contrary to the knowledge of the nature of putrid diſ-

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caſes, and the eſtabliſhed methods of proceeding.

We believe it requires no ſmall ſhare of experience and diſcernment, to diſtinguiſh between the appearance of one diſorder and the other, when the ſymptoms are not ſtrongly marked by the violence of the diſeaſe; but the diſeaſe acknowledged, we have we believe the univerſal aſſent of all authors on the ſubject, and practitioners, to the propriety of bleeding, and cooling, attenuating, antiphlogiſtic remedies (the foremoſt of which is nitre,) in inflammatory caſes, and the propriety of the direct contrary mode of proceeding in putrid caſes.

Mr. Taplin takes blood to aſcertain its quality, and then, without making the appearance of the blood in any meaſure his guide, (or, however, we can learn no ſuch thing

thing from his book) gives nitre or cream of tartar plentifully in drinks: we underſtand a very great difference in the qualities and effects of nitre and cream of tartar; if Mr. Taplin aſks which we think moſt improper in putrid caſes, we anſwer, nitre greatly ſo.

Mr. Taplin giving up the uſe of nitre and bleeding in putrid caſes, (and we venture to pronounce he will do ſo), we have no objection to his cordial balls and drinks. "Future proceedings are to be regulated by ſymptoms and circumſtances; increaſing appearances of danger muſt juſtify exertions of alacrity and fortitude. Enlarge," Mr. Taplin ſays, "your quantities, and multiply your doſes; aiding your judgment by frequent references to the different preſcriptions under ſimilar ſymptoms: you are to proportion your medicines by the dictates of rea-

ſon, and the degree of hazard to which the patient is expoſed." We make no remarks, nor find any fault with this paragraph; for it really contains *nothing* to find fault with; it appears to us a paragraph of words without meaning: after a few *ſhoulds*, or *may happen*, of leſs conſequence, Mr. Taplin comes to this *ſhould* extraordinary " of the complaint, ſo relaxing the ſtomach, or debilitating the ſyſtem, as to produce an irregularity in habit, bearing alternate appearance of health and ſickneſs, correſponding in ſome degree, with the intermittents or agues of our own ſpecies:" What degree of ſimilarity this alternate appearance of health and ſickneſs, may bear to the ague in man, Mr. Taplin leaves his reader to gueſs for himſelf; and then if he does not gueſs right, it is not the author's fault; but Mr. Taplin ſpeaks of it as a rare inſtance—as a poſſibility, rather than a probability—as an inſtance he has never

never ſeen! And we further take occaſion to obſerve, it is what he never will ſee. "Horſes, we ſay, have not the ague;" at the ſame time we take notice, this is not an obſervation made by farriers; and we conceive, that if they had troubled themſelves to form any idea, or paſſed a thought on the nature of fevers among horſes, they muſt have made this remark.

Bracken's ſigns of a fever are, violent heat, and fullneſs of the veſſels, which will appear even to the eye; a beating of the heart and flanks, much quicker than ordinary; a dryneſs in the mouth, with roughneſs of the tongue; continual watchfulneſs and reſtleſſneſs.

In a ſymptomatic or ſimple continued fever, he ſays, depending on an increaſed circulation without any vitiated ſtate of

the blood, thoſe things only are neceſſary, which tend to leſſen the blood's motion, and bring it to a more quiet and ſedate ſtate; therefore bleeding, in the firſt place is neceſſary; after which, glyſters compounded of a ſtrong decoction of ſenna, and about a quarter of a pound of coarſe ſugar diſſolved in each, may be proper, once a-day, to keep the horſe's body open. Many drugs, he ſays, are not wanting in theſe fevers; proper bleeding, with the uſe of glyſters, for about ſix days, will be ſufficient to conquer the diſeaſe.

What he means by proper bleeding, we ſuppoſe, is to bleed every, or every other day, as the diſorder ſeems to abate, and this method, no doubt, will often be ſufficient; but we take the advantage, as *Bracken* himſelf would, of the preſent improved ſtate of medicine, and join the uſe of fever-

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medicines with his method, which will ſhorten the diſeaſe, render leſs bleeding neceſſary, and be ſucceſsful where bleeding and glyſters alone, would fail.

Bracken very juſtly cautions againſt the uſe of purging-medicines in fevers, as likely to encreaſe the diſorder; and they may be more improper in horſes than men, by reaſon of their being ſo much longer in working off.—The horſe is not to drink cold water, and the glyſters, as he ſays, are always to be given warm.

Bracken tells us, more ſkill is required to make a good farrier than a phyſician; what kind of practitioners then, muſt we ſuppoſe the generality of thoſe profeſſing *farriery?*—A number of rowels will be *clapped* (as the phraſe is) in a horſe, under the higheſt inflammatory fever, for the purpoſe

poſe of draining down, or draining off the humours: Every one muſt perceive how greatly the rowelled parts will be inflamed in ſuch a ſtate of the animal, and how much they muſt increaſe the fever. Bark at the ſame time is given *to ſtop* a mortification (not of the rowels, which is not unlikely to happen); and, if the creature lives long enough, when the rowels diſcharge, and are exceedingly offenſive and ſtinking, they are ſaid to work finely, and draw off the corrupted humours.

Monſ. *Solleyſel* tells us, that vigorous young horſes, of a ſlender make, are often attacked by putrid fevers, in which caſe they ſtupidly hang their heads, and can ſcarce keep their eyes open, they reel as they go, the tongue and roof of the mouth is blackiſh, rough and dry; a great heat is ſpread over all the body, their eyes are red, their breath hot

hot and ſharp, and their flanks beat violently: The reader moſt likely, will wonder why vigorous young horſes are more liable to be attacked by this fever, than ſluggiſh dull horſes of another make; we can only ſay it is a French account of the diſorder; and if the matter is ſo in France, it is not ſo in England.

Monſ. *Solleyſell* bleeds in this fever immediately, ſometimes, he ſays, in the neck, temple, or eye veins; and ſometimes in the briſket, flanks, or veins of the thighs: The mentioning theſe different places for taking blood from, is *(pardonnez-mois,* Monſ. Solleyſell,) nonſenſe; the vein of the neck, being moſt convenient, is always to be preferred; as bleeding in the neck will have the ſame effect as taking the ſame quantity of blood from any other part. He adviſes the frequent uſe of opening glyſters, and

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ſome cordial medicines; but if the fever continues three days without intermiſſion, you may ſuperſede all medicine, he ſays, and throw the horſe upon the dunghill; for the liver is now *quite conſumed* by heat, as appears, he ſays, by the diſſection of horſes that die of fevers: We imagine this gentleman to be altogether deceived in this matter; we would rather believe, where he found (by diſſection) no liver, the horſe never had any, than that it was conſumed by three days' illneſs; if he found the liver much diſeaſed, there certainly was the primary diſeaſe, and the fever in conſequence of the diſeaſed ſtate of the liver; and not the diſeaſed ſtate of the liver, in conſequence of the putrid fever, as he calls it.

Under this article we ſhall take occaſion to conſider, a diſorder not ſufficiently attended to by farriers, nor yet by writers on the

the ſubject; and why it is neglected by authors, we do not ſee, as it certainly frequently happens; we mean the inflammation of the brain: this diſorder we take to be much confounded with the ſtaggers. Farriers, indeed, remark two kinds of ſtaggers—the *ſleeping* and the *mad* ſtaggers; which laſt is an inflammation of the brain; the horſe here is violently outrageous, up and down, rolling and tumbling about, with danger to himſelf and all about him. The firſt thing to be done here, (and the want and neglect of which I wonder at), ſhould be to *fling* the horſe, ſomewhat in the manner they are ſlung on board ſhip for exportation; by this means he will be eaſily managed, without danger of hurting himſelf, or the attendants, and remedies of all kinds can now be eaſily adminiſtered, which before was almoſt impoſſible. Abſolute neceſſity has enforced the cuſtom and uſe of ſlinging horſes on

board in rough weather; and we think ſuch a contrivance not much leſs wanted and convenient in this diſorder: to give, therefore, an idea of the proper apparatus for this purpoſe, we have provided the beſt drawing we could, of a horſe in a ſling for our frontiſpiece.

The ſlinging of horſes, we judge, will be found convenient and uſeful on many other occaſions, in doing ſome operations in lameneſs, and caſes of horſe ſurgery, where a perfect ſtate of reſt of the limb is neceſſary; a broken leg by this means may be as readily reduced and cured in a horſe as in a man. It may not be worth a gentleman's while to be provided with the *machine* for *ſlinging* a horſe; but every one employed in the buſineſs of farriery ſhould have the neceſſary apparatus in readineſs.

Mr.

Mr. Taplin and Mr. Merrick, the lateſt writers, having neglected to take notice of this terrible and dangerous diſorder, (which circumſtance is a flat contradiction to the profeſſions of the title-page to Mr. Merrick's immenſe volume), we will endeavour to oblige our readers with a proper method of proceeding: Firſt, let blood be taken; if it be a ſized horſe, and in condition, to the quantity of at leaſt two quarts; let the glyſter before mentioned from Mr. Taplin, be given occaſionally, if the horſe does not dung freely; or let the remedies for the fever be given, together with very gentle purgatives, ſo as juſt to keep the inteſtines free; and from four ounces to half a pint, as it is given more or leſs frequent, of the common infuſion of ſenna, we judge will be ſufficient; let from ſix to ten drams of purified nitre be given in three pints or two quarts of thin gruel warm, with or without the

 ſenna;

ſenna; and if it can be afforded, add to this doſe, ſix or eight ounces of the neutral, or ſalt of wormwood mixture, and we would alſo add a little coarſe ſugar or honey: this doſe we repeat every four or ſix hours; and if the diſorder does not ſeem to abate in a day, (or it may be ſooner), we take away more blood, and carefully attend to its appearance; if very ſizy, the pulſe quick, full and ſtrong, we ſteadily perſiſt in the uſe of the fever remedies; and we would add the antimonial powder, or emetic tartar, as before-mentioned in fevers. The inflammation continuing violent for the ſpace of another day, more or leſs, will warrant the taking away more blood; and we would now bliſter the neck on each ſide, a little behind the ears; the other medicines ſtill to be continued. If the horſe will drink, he ſhould be indulged with thin gruel, or lue-warm water; if he will not drink, it muſt be

be given him. If it is at hand, we would prefer two or three quarts of whey now and then; till the diſorder abates, the gruel or whey will be nouriſhment, the horſe will not be likely to take any other; as ſoon as he will, let him have mild maſhes in ſmall quantities; when the diſorder abates, (but not till then) the propriety of leſſening the quantities, and frequency of giving the remedies, are obvious. It would be right to cut the hair away, and the horſe being ſlung, we ſuppoſe there will be no difficulty in doing it, previous to applying the bliſters; the bliſtered parts may be dreſſed with cabbage-leaves, or the common dreſſings for bliſters: The horſe will be kept warmer or cooler, according to the weather and ſeaſon of the year.—With little variations, the ſame methods will be adapted to other topical or local inflammations, as, of the lungs, the liver, the inteſtines or guts.

Mr.

Mr. Merrick gives us the preparation of a fever-powder, which is Dr. James's, or an imitation of it: We certainly have no objection to the medicine; but yet we think it idle enough to insert in a book of this kind, the preparation of a medicine by an elaborate chymical process, which is everywhere, or a substitute, in readiness to be had; a gentleman, or others that want to use this medicine, most likely know nothing of *crucibles*, or implements necessary in chymical operations—or, if he does, he is in a remote part of the country, where such things are not to be had; and however, time ought not to be wasted in the preparation of a remedy that is everywhere to be had ready.

Inflammation of the lungs will be known by the fever, and other symptoms of inflammation, as a full, strong, quick pulse being

being attended with a difficult laborious breathing, and generally a cough; and here, with the remedies for the fever, ſuch gentle pectoral medicines muſt be given, as will eaſe the cough and difficulty of breathing; and if a cough continues after the fever and inflammation are removed, that muſt ſtill be attended to. Soft maſhes with a little honey, or a quart or two of oatmeal gruel, with two ſpoonfuls of honey, two or three times a-day, warmed a little, or cold if the horſe will take it better, will be highly proper, and moſt likely all that will be wanting, if no fever nor inflammation remains: that circumſtance muſt be carefully watched; whilſt the fever continues, the drinks muſt be given warm.

Mr. Gibſon very juſtly remarks, theſe complaints are very apt to leave a taint on the lungs; and we have the pleaſure of finding,

finding, we have been exactly in his manner of attending to it;—but with the honey, now and then, he joins as much ſulphur, which we certainly have no objection to; gentle and careful airings, he alſo enjoins. The ſtate of the inteſtines is certainly here, as in other fevers and inflammations, to be attended to; and coſtiveneſs prevented, either by gentle laxatives, given occaſionally with the fever medicines, or by emollient glyſters: Strong purging glyſters, Mr. Gibſon ſays, will be apt to fret and inflame the bowels; and inſtead of giving relief, aggravate the ſymptoms.

Mr. Gibſon thinks two or three gentle purges neceſſary after theſe diſorders, to carry off the dregs and remains; now, in our opinion, the fever and inflammation being ſubdued, nothing remains of the diſorder, but a conſequent weakneſs; and nothing

thing wanting to a perfect recovery, but time and care; and, though we do not object to gentle purging after such inflammatory disorders, as wrong or hurtful, yet we do not admit of a necessity for it.

Inflammation of the Liver.—Dr. Bracken remarks it as an omission in writers on farriery taking no notice of the yellows, or jaundice, which is a distemper he says, both man and beast are exceedingly subject to; and he charges Sir William Hope particularly with this omission: but he has only translated Solleysell; so that Solleysell is the person to be found fault with, and not Sir William Hope. We have to remark of Bracken, that he has neglected to take notice of the inflammation of the liver; and horses, we have said, are liable to all kinds of inflammations: the vigour of their health and constitutions, the violence of their ex-

ercife, and the frequent and ſudden tranſitions from heat to cold, they undergo, render them particularly liable to inflammatory diſorders; and yet ſuch diſorders have hitherto been but little regarded in books of Farriery.—Mr. Gibſon obſerves inflammatory diſorders to be not unfrequent amongſt horſes, yet almoſt wholly overlooked, or not underſtood, by writers on the ſubject, or the generality of practitioners; for horſes dying of theſe complaints, have been ſaid to die rotten:—And this we look upon as the reaſon, inflammatory diſorders (as Bartlet obſerves) have ſcarce been mentioned by writers on farriery, before Mr. Gibſon.

The inflammation of the liver is known to be a frequent cauſe of the jaundice: in enumerating the ſymptoms of this diſorder, Bracken is wanting in one, and as certain a mark

a mark of the diſeaſe as any—namely, the appearance of the excrements, or dung; Mr. Taplin well makes out the deficiency of Bracken. The laſt-mentioned gentleman, who, notwithſtanding muſt remain an eſteemed and valuable author, ſays, " the ſigns of the yellows are, a dullneſs and ſluggiſhneſs of the whole body (this is remarkable both in man and beaſt), the horſe breathes with difficulty, his heart, (he ſays) beats ſlower than when in health; he loſes his appetite, and becomes poor, lean, and liker a dog-horſe than one fit for buſineſs; the inſides of the eye-lids, and eyes themſelves, appear yellow; alſo ſaffron-coloured urine:"—to theſe we add, that the dung, though, as Mr. Taplin ſays, it varies much in different ſubjects, is in all many degrees paler, more indigeſted and harder than the excrements of horſes in health; and this mark of the diſeaſe in the excrements, is

particularly uſeful in diſcovering the diſorder in *blacks;* we do not mean black horſes —but black men, where it is not readily perceived by the complexion.

But to return to the inflammation of the liver: with the ſigns of general fever and inflammation, ſome of the ſymptoms above alluded to, will appear to point out the local affection or ſeat of the complaint; the fever is to be ſubdued, or however, to be endeavoured at, by bleeding and the fever-medicines, recommended in fevers; but, here more eſpecially, we adviſe the neutral or ſalt of wormwood mixture, with the other fever remedies. If, after the fever is removed, the horſe remains unwell, we are to ſuſpect a diſeaſed ſtate of the liver, and to give remedies for hepatic or liver obſtructions, as rhubarb and ſoluble tartar, a doſe every day, from one dram to two of rhubarb,

rhubarb, and from half an ounce to an ounce of ſoluble tartar: The horſe will be apt to take it in a maſh of bran or malt, and it will not loſe much of its effect by being given that way; otherwiſe, if it is to be had, we would give the doſe in a quart of whey, and which we look upon as a very proper drink for the horſe, three or four quarts of it a-day. It will not be underſtood, that we mean the horſe to have nothing elſe to drink; the uſe of this remedy, or indeed any other, will be neceſſary for a time, and the ſhifting, day after day, from remedy to remedy, muſt beſpeak a want of judgment in the preſcriber; however, if the diſorder does not give way in a week or nine days, or thereabouts, we would add to this doſe, about ſix drams of Æthiop's mineral: this muſt be given, either in a maſh or a ball. Æthiop's mineral, Dr. *Bracken* ſays, will anſwer when moſt anti-

icteric

icteric medicines fail, unleſs the obſtructions be very obſtinate, and the liver grown hard or horny, in which caſe nothing will be able to remove the diſeaſe.

One curious circumſtance I will take occaſion to mention here; and a very ſmall acquaintance in the buſineſs of *farriery*, will witneſs the truth of it, viz.—what an amazing number of horſes die rotten: more than fifty for one of the human ſpecies, I believe, are ſaid, *I mean*, to die rotten,—rotten as *a pear*. Many horſes die of the complaint I am now ſpeaking of, and other inflammations and fevers, when the real diſeaſe is not ſuſpected by the doctor; and theſe are all ſure to die rotten: Sometimes the carcaſe is opened by the deſire of the owner, and then the practitioner is ſure to appear great in his own buſineſs, and to have judged of the matter in a maſterly manner; the

the liver being a very tender bowel, which readily gives way and breaks to pieces, with a very ſmall force, between the finger and thumb.—This experiment (I will not ſay trick, becauſe the doctor really believes in the truth of his ſtory) is ſhewn to exemplify this pear-like rottenneſs. One would imagine, I think, that it muſt occur to every one inclined to give himſelf the leaſt trouble in reflecting, that the horſe was quite well within a few days, or a week, of his death; and that it muſt be impoſſible for the rottenneſs to begin and have ariſen to ſuch a pitch, in ſo ſmall a ſpace of time: but, no—the rotten ſtory, and a very rotten one it is, prevails; the carcaſe is ſkinned, and the remainder either thrown to the dogs, or to become ſtill more rotten.

Very lately, an eminent farrier had the care of a gentleman's ſick horſe; and the gentle-

gentleman being diſſatisfied with him, took the management of him upon himſelf: the Doctor told a medical gentleman, he had found out the horſe's diſorder; but as the gentleman had turned him off, he would not make him acquainted with it. "The horſe," ſays he, "had the yellows; and I could readily have cured him; I perceived it plainly in his head: the *ſeat* of the yellows," he obſerved, "was in the head."—"No," replies the medical gentleman, "I think you are wrong in that idea; the ſeat of the yellows is certainly in the *tail*:" and, after a warm diſpute, each party tenaciouſly and ably defending his opinion, the controverſy ended with a conſiderable wager; one betting on the head, the other betting on the tail, being the ſeat of the yellows, or jaundice. The horſe, however, ſoon died, no doubt, of an inflammation of the liver, and ſymptomatic fever.

During

During the continuance of the fever and inflammation, ſtrong purging medicines will certainly be improper; but coſtiveneſs muſt be prevented by means of emollient glyſters, (if the proper diet of the horſe, as ſoft maſhes, does not anſwer that purpoſe,) or by gentle laxatives given by the mouth, as infuſion of ſenna and ſweet oil, or caſtor oil, with a little treacle or coarſe ſugar.

Inflammation of the Guts.——This violent and dangerous diſorder may be diſtinguiſhed from a flatulent or windy cholic, by a high ſymptomatic fever, and the exceſſive uneaſineſs and pain the horſe ſeems to be in; and with a proper attention to the fever and topical inflammation, due regard muſt be had to the ſeat of the diſeaſe, by preventing or remedying a coſtive ſtate; for the danger in this diſorder, lyes greatly in an obſtinate conſtipation of the inteſtines.

The cure properly begins with the taking away of blood—and that freely; as to the quantity of four, five, or ſix pints; next an emollient opening glyſter ſhould be thrown up, always warm; and with the fever medicines, which will be given three or four times in twenty-four hours: according to the more or leſs coſtive ſtate of the bowels, larger or ſmaller doſes of mild purgatives are to be joined:—Strong irritating purges are always deemed dangerous or improper in theſe caſes, in man; greatly more ſo in horſes.

After giving three or four doſes of the firſt of all cooling attenuating remedies, (namely nitre) of an ounce each, which will be given in at leaſt a quart or two of gruel, or ſome ſoft liquid, a little warm, and with it as ſeems wanted, to keep the belly open, from a quarter or to half a pint of infuſion of ſenna,

na, (I mean, of the ſtrength of the London Diſpenſatory) or three ounces of ſenna to a quart of boiling-water, with a ſmall quantity, or two tea-ſpoonfuls, of ginger.

If, we ſay, after repeating theſe remedies three or four times, the inflammation and fever do not ſeem to abate, but the pulſe is ſtill full, quick and ſtrong, more blood muſt be taken; and nevertheleſs, though the blood already taken does not appear ſizy, as that may be from the diſeaſe not having been of ſufficient length of continuance to produce that ſymptom; we go on with the ſame medicines, and uſe the glyſter occaſionally, on account of coſtiveneſs or great pain and uneaſineſs, and we ſteadily perſiſt to uſe theſe means, till the diſorder gives way;—then ſlacken and diminiſh the doſes accordingly; but if the inflammatory ſymptoms ſtill ſtand out to the third or

fourth day, we are warranted in repeating the bleeding; and, to the nitrous doſes we would add a moderate doſe of the antimonial fever-powder, or of emetic tartar: We muſt not omit ſtrictly to caution againſt any neglect in ſupplying the horſe with lukewarm white water, or thin gruel, to drink. We hope theſe means will generally be ſucceſsful; and we alſo hope, theſe ſubjects are here ſpoken of, in a manner that will enable gentlemen to proceed with propriety.

We have obſerved, farriers remark two kinds of ſtaggers; the mad ſtaggers ſo called, or inflammation of the brain, and the ſleeping ſtaggers: the inflammatory kind is already conſidered.

As to the *ſleeping* ſtaggers, or the diſeaſe ſo called, the preſent wretched ſtate of farriery,

riery, I believe, can ſay little more of it, than—the horſe forſakes his food, is mopiſh and ſtupid, and reels and totters as he moves, for a few days; and, perhaps dies. By the manner of this diſtemper going through a ſtable, and its frequent fatality, one would, I think, be induced to ſuppoſe it an infectious diſorder; and I believe, this diſorder is more frequent among horſes that work hard, and are but indifferently fed, than in the ſtables of gentlemen: at times it has raged with a mortality almoſt equal to the murrain in horned cattle. Mr. Marſhall tells us, in his *Rural Economy of Glouceſterſhire*, a few years ago many farmers loſt all their beſt horſes: a loſs to the amount of ſeveral thouſand pounds, was ſuſtained in Staffordſhire alone!

Mr. Marſhall obſerves, he-goats are kept in the livery-ſtables in London, for the purpoſe

poſe of preſerving the health of the horſes; particularly as a prevention of the *ſtaggers*. —This gentleman acknowledges, he has always conſidered it as one of thoſe popular charms, of which wonderful effects are related in every country; nor has he yet any proof to the contrary, but ſtrong preſumptive evidence; which he gives, he ſays, on ſuch authority, as no one who knows the author, will diſpute:—"About ſixteen years ago, a Mr. Wm. Peacey, loſt ſeveral horſes in the ſtaggers; he was adviſed to keep a he-goat in the ſtables; he got one—and had not for many years, another inſtance of the diſorder; but the goat dying, his horſes again became afflicted with this alarming diſorder;—he procured another goat, and has not ſince had an inſtance of the ſtaggers." Mr. Marſhall thinks it probable, that the influence of the goat, is not merely that of a charm: the ſtaggers, he ſays, evi-

dently

dently appear to be a nervous diſorder; odours, he obſerves, are found to act beneficially on the human nerves; and poſſibly, he ſuppoſes, the ſtrong ſcent of the goat may have a ſimilar effect on thoſe of the horſe.—He concludes with recommending the ſubject for further enquiry.

Upon enquiry we are told the influence and efficacy of the he-goat, as a preventative of the ſtaggers, is an idle ſtory, much like the notion of rats avoiding thoſe places where Guinea-pigs were kept; and certainly Guinea-pigs have been in great repute for this valuable purpoſe; but upon further proof of the matter it is found that rats and Guinea-pigs feed together as ſociable as may be.

We are pleaſed here with this gentleman's analagous reaſoning, from man to animal; but

but he does not ſeem to be aware that horſes have two kinds of ſtaggers, perfectly diſtinct and different in their nature; it is what farriers term the ſleeping ſtaggers, he alludes to, which is evidently an infectious diſorder, attended, we have no doubt, (though the preſent wretched ſtate of farriery affords us here no information) with a malignant peſtilential *kind* of fever; in all which kind of diſorders the nervous ſyſtem is materially affected; this is no further a nervous diſorder. Odours, Mr. Marſhall obſerves, act beneficially on the nerves; but it is more to the purpoſe to ſay, that odours are antidotes to infection: We are told, that in the time of the *plague*, *tobacconiſts*, and, I think, *tallow-chandlers*, eſcaped the infection.

Mr. Marſhall ſays nothing more of the nature of the diſorder than its being *nervous*;

one

one could wiſh he had, however, remarked the remedies tried, and the time the horſes lived in common under the diſorder, as one good ſtep towards a knowledge of the nature of the diſeaſe; and by adopting Mr. Marſhall's method of analagous reaſoning, it will be found that malignant infectious diſorders are more rapid in their progreſs, materially affect the head, and are more early fatal than inflammatory fevers; this will be found the caſe in the ſtaggers here alluded to: the great affection of the head has given it the name of ſtaggers. We have ſaid, that the diſorder is more frequent amongſt horſes that work hard and live indifferently, than in the ſtables of gentlemen, and that it rages at times with a fatality nearly equal to the *murrain* in horned cattle; and this we think we have ſufficiently corroborated by Mr. Marſhall.

In conſidering this ſubject, we were led to think this diſorder of horſes ſomewhat of a kin to the murrain of cattle; and wiſhing to proſecute ſome enquiry into it, we were ſurprized to find no Engliſh account of it in Chamber's Dictionary; but we are informed, Dr. Layard wrote upon it:—the publication has been long out of print; but we doubt not to find it ſufficiently intereſting, when we can meet with it.

In Chambers's Dictionary, we have this account of the murrain: "A mortality, or contagious diſeaſe among cattle." Murrains are occaſioned various ways; but principally by a hot, dry ſeaſon; or rather by a general putrefaction of the air, which begets an inflammation in the blood, and a ſwelling in the throat, with other ſymptoms: the diſeaſe ſoon proves mortal, and is communicated from one to another.

The

The ſymptoms are generally a hanging-down, or ſwelling, of the head, rattling in the throat, ſhort breath, palpitation of the heart, ſtaggering, abundance of gum in the eyes, &c. breath hot, and tongue ſhining.

The moſt remarkable murrain is that mentioned in the Philoſophical Tranſactions, which ſpread itſelf through Switzerland and Germany, into Poland, &c. The contagion ſeemed to propagate itſelf in form of a blue miſt, which fell on the graſs where the cattle grazed, inſomuch that whole herds returned home ſick; and being very dull, and forbearing their food, moſt of them died away in twenty-four hours' time; on diſſection, there were found large corrupted ſpleens, ſphacelous and corroded tongues, &c.—Thoſe people who managed them, without a due regard to their health, were infected by them, and died like the beaſts.

Some imagine it had its riſe from noxious vapours, thrown out of the earth in three diſtinct earthquakes, perceived in the neighbourhood where it began; though Dr. Slare rather thinks it owing to ſwarms of volatile inſects. The antidote for the ſound, and the medicine for the ſick, were the ſame, *viz.* equal parts of ſoot, gunpowder, brimſtone, and ſalt, with as much water as would wäſh it down; a ſpoonful was a doſe.

The ſame diſeaſe, we are told, that ſome years ago carried off ſuch vaſt numbers of cattle here, and elſewhere, has at other times raged in Italy.—" In the year 1710, and ſucceeding one, there was a great mortality among the horned-cattle there, and the occaſion of it was evidently the unnatural ſeaſon preceding; the graſs was injured by this, and the ground rendered continually damp and unwholeſome; and to this

this was owing, the malignant and contagious diſeaſe that raged among the cattle afterwards. It was ſuppoſed, that the contagion was brought in among the cattle, by ſtrange oxen coming from infected places; but this proved to be an error; for if an ox was removed to ever ſo diſtant a paſture, he did not eſcape the better for it; the whole earth and its productions were vitiated, throughout the country, and there was no ſafety in any part of it."—Michelotti *de Morbis Boum.*

"As to remedies, (he ſays) when they are once ſeized with the diſtemper, it is hard to underſtand what intention to preſcribe in, and how to aſcertain the doſes; and as the late practice, in attempting to cure, was of very little ſervice, the caution for preventing the diſeaſe, ought to be redoubled, to prevent an almoſt incurable misfortune."

Gazola

Gazola remarks, all medicines proved vain in this diſtemper; and ſuch of the creatures as recovered, had always puſtules or tubercles break out upon the ſkin, which ouzed out a bloody liquor.

From the whole, it appears that this diſeaſe was an acute fever in theſe creatures, and of ſo malignant a kind, that the texture of the blood was always broke in it. Many called it a plague among the cattle.

Inſtead of the great quantities of watery liquors uſually given, the creatures ſhould have ſomething ſtrong, as a mixture of wine, and that in conſiderable quantities; the litter is to be daily changed for freſh; no hogs, ſheep, or other animals, ſhould be ſuffered to feed among them.—*Gazola de Peſte Boum.*

Lanciſi

Lanciſi diſſents from this author in ſome particulars; he ſays, that the diſtemper was a true plague among the cattle; and obſerves, that this very plague among the *oxen*, was well known among the antients. It was firſt brought into Italy from Hungary, and infected the cattle by the breath, by the pores of the ſkin, or by any other paſſage that it found open; he recommends great care that they have perfectly good food and drink, and adviſes the waſhing their mouth and noſtrils with a mixture of vinegar, garlic, ſulphur, ſalt, and juniper-berries; he condemns all medicines, and even bleeding, but greatly recommends ſetons, cauteries, and bliſters.—*Lanciſi, ap actu cruditor, ann.* 1715.

Franciſcus Fantaſti obſerves, that the oxen were ſeized differently, though the cauſe of the diſtemper was evidently the ſame in them

them all. Some of the cattle voided great quantities of blood by the urinary paſſages; theſe commonly died, and all the humours were found evidently tending to a ſtate of corruption. The only internal medicine he preſcribes, is a mixture of theriaca, two ounces, diaſcordium one ounce, powder of Peruvian bark two ounces, to be given every day, for three ſucceeding days, diſſolved in three pints of the juice of brook-lime, water-creſs, and ſcurvy-graſs, with the addition of a pint of ſtrong white wine.

John Baptiſt Mazzini, wrote in another part of the world at the ſame time. With him, we find, the diſeaſed cattle continually had a running of a mucous matter from the noſe, and a weeping at the eyes; and when the corners of theſe creatures eyes were waſhed with wine, in which ſage leaves had been infuſed, there came out ſeveral cluſters of

of ſmall ſlender worms, twiſted one among another. This author adviſes every thing to be done to promote perſpiration.—*Mazzini, Liter. ad Valliſnier, de Peſte Boum.* [*See* Chambers's Dictionary.]

Theſe accounts of the murrain of cattle have been examined, under an idea that this diſtemper and the *ſleeping ſtaggers* (ſo called by Farriers) among horſes, do in ſome meaſure correſpond in their nature and effects; and any circumſtance that may tend to exemplify this matter, we preſume, will not be deemed foreign to our ſubject.

This diſeaſe of the horned cattle, and the diſeaſe of horſes, under conſideration, ſeem both highly infectious, and both have raged at times with ſomewhat ſimilar violence and mortality: though we do not find this material circumſtance recorded, how long the

creatures commonly ſurvived under theſe diſorders, yet it is to be learnt, that the malady in cattle and horſes generally proved very ſoon fatal, the alike great affection of the head, dullneſs, and ſunk ſtate, each animal ſuffers under theſe diſeaſes; the diſeaſes in each have alike tyrannized, and *lorded it* over every remedy attempted, with uncontrouled violence and mortality; but they do not ſeem to have raged at one and the ſame time. The diſeaſe of the cattle in this country was thought to be imported; they are here ſaid to have ſwelled very much in the body; a circumſtance, I think, not mentioned in the foreign accounts of it.

In Italy, without carefully avoiding it, the people attending the diſeaſed cattle are ſaid to take the infection and die of it. We do not hear that perſons taking care of the diſtempered

diſtempered cattle here, were at all apprehenſive, or received any injury.

We do not find that many phyſicians gave their opinions, or were conſulted on this national calamity. Prayers were conſtantly offered up in the churches; and, certainly, the raging of the diſtemper ſeemed to threaten a great ſcarcity of roaſt beef.

Leſt we appear to neglect a ſubject worthy attention, we muſt introduce it here, (out of order indeed) and out of time; and whether from a fault of the Printer, or an omiſſion of the Author, the Reader will excuſe this irregularity, if the matter is now fully and properly ſpoken to—we mean the *pleuriſy*, which ſhould have followed methodically, as it frequently does in nature, and in fact, the inflammation of the lungs, and requires the ſame remedies; namely,

plentiful bleeding, and the ſame fever-medicines, with clyſters, or gentle laxatives, if neceſſary.

The pleuriſy we do not deſcribe, becauſe of the difficulty of diſtinguiſhing it in horſes, a local inflammation of the pleura, with the other inflammatory ſymptoms, attended with a pain of the affected ſide; but we cannot learn in a horſe, with any certainty, when there is a fixed pain on either ſide. Mr. Gibſon ſays, a pleuriſy and peripneumony, or inflammation of the lungs, are not eaſily diſtinguiſhed in a horſe. He alſo obſerves, the pleuriſy is apt to be miſtaken by practitioners for the gripes, or cholic. From the circumſtance of the horſe turning his head to the affected ſide, it is, we ſuppoſe the flatulent or windy cholic, here meant to be taken for the pleuriſy; for if it was the inflammatory cholic, there would

be

be little harm in the miſtake; yet we think it is not quite clear which kind of cholic or gripes Gibſon means; and we think it a very ſingular and unaccountable circumſtance of this reſpectable author, that in ſpeaking of theſe inflammatory diſorders, he does not attend to the pulſe, the moſt certain and diſtinguiſhing mark of inflammatory diſtempers, and of the degree of inflammation, among the ſymptoms. Mr. Gibſon remarks a heaving and working of the flanks, and takes no notice of a difficult laborious breathing. We would remark the quick laborious breathing, and not obſerve the working of the flanks, as we conſider it entirely dependent on the manner of breathing; for at all times, if a horſe is winded by exerciſe, ſo that he breathes quick and forcibly, he has alſo this heaving or working of his flanks.

Rowels

Rowels, Mr. Gibſon ſays, are ſerviceable in pleuriſies, and all inward inflammations: we do not ſee how, unleſs by raiſing one local inflammation, another is removed; and this we believe may be the caſe, and indeed is obſerved to be a great uſe of bliſters, by cauſing a tranſlation of inflammation from within outwardly; and ſo ſays Mr. Gibſon. "Bliſtering ointment does great ſervice, rubbed over the briſket, on the foremoſt ribs, which only, he ſays, makes a revulſion;" and revulſion here, we think, muſt mean a tranſlation of inflammation; and which we think is more readily and advantageouſly done by bliſtering, than by rowelling. Mr. Gibſon obſerves horſes to be ſubject to inflammation of the *mediaſtium*, or membrane that ſeparates the lobes of the lungs, and alſo of the midriff (or ſkirt ſometimes called) but as theſe caſes in horſes are not to be known from the pleuriſy, or an inflamma-

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tion of the lungs, we think it needleſs to ſay more of them.

Mr. Taplin is of the ſame opinion, that the diſtinction between theſe diſeaſes is too nice in this animal, for certain diſcrimination: either diſplays ſymptoms he obſerves common to both, and that the treatment is exactly ſimilar in each; nor is there any thing material to be obſerved in Mr. Taplin's treatment of theſe diſorders, from what we have ſaid, till he comes to an abatement of the diſorder; "And the horſe will eat maſhes of bran, with four ounces of honey to each, and will drink thin gruel for common drink, in each draught of which ſhould be diſſolved two ounces of cream of tartar." Now as he is to have this gruel and cream of tartar as common drink, we reckon the horſe muſt have at leaſt four draughts of it in a day, which will be half a pound of cream of tartar;

tartar; and if he has four maſhes, with four ounces of honey in each, will be a pound of honey, which we are perſuaded will prove a very griping uneaſy doſe in the horſe's ſtomach and guts, and greatly too purgative at this time. Mr. Taplin proceeds, "Every appearance of danger being diſpelled, the further management may be regulated by the inſtructions under the article *Cold*; but giving, he ſays, a ball every morning for a fortnight." The balls are made of Caſtile ſoap, gum ammoniac, anniſe, and cummin ſeeds. Now as Mr. Taplin leaves us altogether in the dark, as to the uſe of theſe balls "after every appearance of danger is over," by which we muſt underſtand a total removal of the diſeaſe, we do not comprehend what ſalutary purpoſe they are to anſwer. This ſeems to be on the plan of a Welſh ſurgeon (a ſelf-made ſurgeon we mean) who, in curing a patient's ſore leg,

uſes

uſes an application for the purpoſe of making it better than well, and in his bill charges an *item*, for curing the ſore leg *quite*, after it was well. In ſerioufneſs, we are of opinion that medicine always does good; for if it does not do the patient good, it does the doctor good; and if theſe balls do not do the horſe good, they will do the compounders good; ſo we have nothing to ſay againſt them. Mr. Taplin, as ſoon as the horſe is ſufficiently recovered, puts him upon a gentle courſe of phyſic, "to prevent any ill effects from the viſcidity of matter that has ſo long overloaded the veſſels of the lungs; or its acrimony, that may, by its retention there, ſo corrode or lacerate, as to form an *ulcer*, or promote the growth of *knots* or *tubercles*." We certainly had no idea of any of theſe evils, after the fever and inflammation were ſubdued; nor any apprehenſion of the formation of an ulcer; but by

the inflammation continuing, and going on to ſuppuration. Theſe are firmly our ſentiments, at the ſame time acknowledging our content in a ſubordinate degree of utility, and that the ſublimity of Mr. Taplin's doctrine, is now and then far, very far out of our reach.

Mr. Bartlet does his book the credit, and his readers the benefit, of having literally copied *Gibſon* on theſe diſeaſes.

I ſhall cloſe this ſubject of inflammation with the recital of a recent caſe:

I was lately taken by a friend to ſee a gentleman's horſe, that was thought to be very dangerouſly diſordered; it was a valuable ſtallion, and we found the diſeaſe to be a violently ſwelled and inflamed teſticle, and a great ſymptomatic fever; the pulſe

was

was betwixt ſixty and ſeventy beats in a minute; I believe I may ſay 65, which I imagine in a horſe will denote a degree of fever and inflammation, equal to the pulſe at about 100 in man: and though we ſay horſes have not the ague, or intermittent fever, yet in topical inflammations there will be at times an exacerbation or encreaſe of ſymptoms. At thoſe times this horſe was perfectly frantic; he ſpurned the litter and pavement, and bit his own ſides in a violent manner. He had been bled before I ſaw him, and had taken *a drink a day*, for two or three days, from a neighbouring practitioner, who poſitively aſſured the gentleman the horſe had no fever, and that the diſorder was an *inward ſtrain*; thus widely we differed as to the horſe's caſe, which the gentleman obſerved, *Doctors* were too apt to do. However, I was earneſtly requeſted to endeavour to relieve the horſe. Two

quarts of blood, or ſomewhat more, were directly taken, and ſaved in a proper veſſel in order to be inſpected, and as it proved to be very highly inflamed and ſizey, as much more was taken away the ſame evening, and a nitrous fever powder was directed to be given three times in the day, and plentiful cooling ſaturnine fomentations were applied to the part two or three times a day: to open the belly a little, he had a mild laxative drink, of an infuſion of ſenna and treacle. In a very few days the fever and local inflammation ſeemed to give way materially, the fits of exacerbation entirely left him, and the ſwelling of the part was greatly reduced; indeed, we thought the horſe getting quite well very faſt; but in about ten days, the teſticle began to ſwell again, and in a very few days was more ſwelled than ever, but without occaſioning a fever, or the violent pain the horſe had before,

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and there was a collection or depoſition of a quantity of fluid; the ſwelling which now occupied alſo the whole ſheath, was greatly cedematous, the other teſticle all along quite well. I now thought the fomentation would be of little further ſervice, and that an operation would be neceſſary; and as I did not profeſs ſurgery, I determined to aſk a ſurgeon's aſſiſtance; I went to Mr. Hunter, who I knew as a philoſopher, always intereſted himſelf in every thing uſeful in man or beaſt; Mr. Hunter being ill of the gout, I ſaw Mr. Home, to whom, after ſome other buſineſs, with ſome diffidence and delicacy I told him, I mentioned this horſe's caſe. He replied, I need not have been diffident about it, and it ſeemed to be the caſe *they* wanted to examine, and he would go with me to the horſe any morning, and ſhould bring with him a gentleman, I have mentioned before, reſpecting the

pulſe,

pulſe, and who was attending their (Mr. Hunter's and Mr. Home's) lectures, and putting himſelf to a great expence in education, with a deſign to practiſe farriery.

Mr. Home, however, Mr. Hunter being confined, had ſo many engagements, that he could not attend; but the gentleman mentioned, went with me to the horſe: He found the parts greatly ſwelled and inflamed; but the inflammation, as I have obſerved, was now not ſo great as to raiſe a fever, nor to occaſion any great pain, ſo that local application ſeemed all that was neceſſary.

The above gentleman adviſed topical bleeding; and twenty leeches were endeavoured to be applied, but ten only would take: the uſe of the ſomentation was continued, or rather renewed, as it had been

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left off a day or two, and an emollient poultice was applied, as well to ſuſpend the teſticle, as for its uſe as a poultice; but it is with great difficulty poultices are applied to the teſticles of horſes, and the anatomical ſtructure of the ſcrotum and teſticles of a horſe, does not make ſuſpenſion ſo neceſſary as in man. Much advantage being gained by theſe means, ten more leeches were applied the next day; the fomentation and poultice were continued; in a few days the ſwelling greatly abated, and a fluctuation of matter was plainly perceived, and in about a week, the abſceſs burſt, or nature *performed the operation*, which I have ſaid, I thought would be neceſſary: Every thing goes on well; but the horſe has a breaking out of little glandular knots, for which he has taken an alterative antimonial powder, for a fortnight. The breaking out ſtill remains, and an enlarge-

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ment and induration, that ſeems to threaten a ſcirrhous teſticle; otherwiſe, the horſe is well and hearty, and works every day; and as a more powerful alterative, and yet ſo ſafe, that he may conſtantly work with it, he is now taking *hemlock*, with the antimonial powder; and which I doubt not will prove a very efficacious and uſeful medicine in farriery, where the moſt powerful alteratives are frequently wanting, as in the *Farcy*; and as an alterative medicine, perhaps we cannot go beyond *cicuta* and *calomel*. I have ſpoken of this caſe, as an inflamed teſticle only, to be the more readily underſtood; for as the ſame means are to be uſed, whether the teſticle itſelf, or the integuments or coats are more materially affected, it is needleſs to puzzle the reader with anatomical nicety. The diet of the horſe was ſlender and cooling, as mild maſhes of bran, or bran and malt, with a plenty of water, a little warm, or white water.

Mr.

Mr. Clarke, in his late book on horſes, conſiders the qualities of that great article in farriery—nitre; amongſt his commendations of it, he ſays it is an antidote to putrefaction: He means, no doubt, that it poſſeſſes that quality in putrid diſeaſes; but here he is altogether miſtaken; and we apprehend he has taken up this idea, and publiſhed it, upon no better grounds, than its being a moſt powerful antiſeptic in inanimate ſubſtances, as every cook and ſalter of meat, well knows; but a moſt dangerous and unwarrantable concluſion is drawn from hence, viz. "that it is a remedy in putrid diſeaſes:" for the contrary, indeed, is now ſo well known and eſtabliſhed a fact, that we are ſorry we have, at this time a-day, after ſo much has been ſaid and wrote on the ſubject, to ſet Mr. Clarke right in this important matter; than which, we think, (the nature of putrefaction, and effects of antiſep-

tics in putrid diſeaſes), phyſic does not furniſh a ſubject of greater moment and conſequence. We truſt that Mr. Clarke, from this hint, will ſee and conſider this matter in its proper light, in his treatiſe on the *Diſeaſes of Horſes*; which we are told is to follow the very valuable book (notwithſtanding this error) he has juſt publiſhed. The Monthly Reviewers, who have done this gentleman juſtice, as to the merit of his book, if they had read it, however, with a little more attention, would have remarked this error; as in a controverſy on the ſubject ſome years ago, between Mr. (now Dr.) Alexander, of Edinburgh, and Mr. Proſſer, of London, they deliver themſelves thus: "From Mr. P.'s remarks on the Experimental Eſſays of Mr. Alexander we collect the following particulars:—That the putrefactive proceſs in the dead and in the living animal, is widely different.—Thoſe

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ſubſtances which reſiſt putrefaction in the dead, do not therefore neceſſarily produce the ſame effect in the living body; and that *nitre*, ſo ſtrongly recommended by Mr. Alexander, as an antiſeptic, or, as Mr. Clarke has it, 'an antidote to putrefaction,' will promote, rather than reſiſt this proceſs in the living body, by ſtill further weakening the powers of the circulation." Monthly Review for November, 1769.

It is ſomewhat unfortunate, that theſe blunders and ill-founded ideas, follow one after another, from the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, where the ſchool of phyſic ſtands ſo very high in reputation, and to whoſe doctrines we may ſuppoſe Mr. Clarke attached and benefited by. And after thus correcting this error in "The *King's Farrier* for the Kingdom of Scotland," the Author will look forward with ſome hopes of the

honorary appointment of *Farrier* to the King in England.

Some years after this, we have the reſpectable authority of Dr. Millman, who had occaſion to conſider this matter, in his "*Enquiry* into the Source from whence the Symptoms of the *Scurvy*, and of Putrid Fevers ariſe." Dr. Millman's manner of ſpeaking on this occaſion, is as maſterly and elegant, as the ſubject is intereſting. The circumſtance of my having publiſhed the ſame ſentiments and ideas many years before, was unknown to the Doctor; and it was not recollected by the Reviewers, in their account of his book; for they gave the Doctor credit for the very ſame ſentiments and opinions, in 1782, they had reviewed from me in 1769. I put theſe gentlemen in mind of this overſight, and in one of their following reviews,

reviews, they have publiſhed an anſwer to my note, with this apology ; "That they were like their brethren, mortal men, and that conſequently the *corps* of Reviewers of to-day, were not acquainted with ſubjects reviewed years before." However, I could have wiſhed they had been more circumſpect, as guardians of my *right* and property, if I may ſo ſay, and which perhaps I valued very highly ; and being, like my brethren, a mortal man, I might have loſt the opportunity of doing myſelf juſtice. It was not a little flattering to me, to find our notions of the matter ſo exactly coincided ; for if I was behind-hand with the Doctor in manner and eloquence, I was equal with him in matter and ſubſtance. In one point we differed : the Doctor ſays, it was with great diffidence that, againſt the authorities which had maintained the contrary opinions, he ventured to doubt their truth and propriety.

priety. For my part, I had no diffidence about the matter, when about a dozen years before, in my remarks on Mr. Alexander's Eſſays (annexed to a Treatiſe on the Derby Neck) I obſerved that the putrefactive principle in living bodies, and inanimate ſubſtances, were materially different, and as quoted above from the Review. Dr. Millman relates the principle upon which Sir J. Pringle founded his doctrine of antiſeptics, and pointed out thoſe haſty inferences by which they were attempted to be made guides to us in the prevention, and in the cure of putrid diſeaſes, and ſays "it is not the accuracy of the experiments which he ventures to impeach, but the applications, and the concluſions from them, which he preſumes to queſtion. The furnace or crucible of a chymiſt, the Doctor obſerves, affords no fair criterion by which we are to judge of the nature of a medicine; or that the change

which

which it produces on the dead fibre, is to be a rule by which we are to eſtimate the probable effects of it on the animated machine. We ſhall even find," continues the Doctor, " that ſubſtances which have an antiſeptic effect on the dead fibres of animals, often produce putrid ſymptoms in the living body."

" *Haller*," ſays Dr. Millman, " faithfully records theſe pernicious effects of *alkalies;* and when he compares theſe practical facts with the reſult of the late experiments, proving the properties of the alkalies, he ſeems to be quite confounded; and admits, that there is a contradiction between them, which he is unable to reconcile."—Thus much we doubt not of being ſufficient to ſhew the impropriety and effects of nitre in putrid diſeaſes: were more authorities wanting after Dr. Millman, we have the never-

never-to-be-forgotten Huxham, Fothergill, and Dr. Heiſham on the jail fever. Dr. Fothergill, I believe, it is well known, obtained that high rank and honourable eſteem, and preference he held in his profeſſion, principally from being the firſt in obſerving, and pointing out, the dangerous conſequences of reducing the powers of nature, by evacuations and *antiphlogiſtics* in the putrid ſore throat; and we find Sir John Pringle himſelf, after a few days' illneſs in ſuch diſorders, was obliged to forego the uſe of ſome of his favourite antiſeptics, *nitre* eſpecially.

Mr. Clarke quotes Bracken as to the quantity of blood in a horſe; who ſays, "there paſs through the heart of a horſe 1800 times four ounces, or 450 pounds of blood, in an hour: now, the common received opinion is, that the whole maſs of blood in man is about

about 25 pounds, (profeſſors of anatomy, however, differ ſo widely as to this matter, that by ſome it is rated at not more than one third of this quantity), and in a horſe ſix times as much; and, therefore, according to this allowance, a quantity of blood equal to the whole maſs paſſes through the heart ten times in an hour in man, and in one hour and 12 minutes in a horſe; and from hence it may be obſerved, how neceſſary it is to take away greater quantities of blood in many caſes than is commonly practiſed; for what ſenſible effect can the taking away a quart of blood from a horſe, have upon him, if we conſider that he has near 225 times as much in his body?" Here is a very erroneous calculation: 450 pounds of blood, Bracken ſays, paſſes through the heart in an hour; that the whole quantity of blood in man is about 25 pounds, and in a horſe ſix times as much; that a quantity of blood,

equal to the whole maſs, paſſes the heart ten times in an hour in man, and in an hour and 12 minutes in a horſe; 450 pounds in an hour will therefore be 540 pounds in an hour and 12 minutes, and the tenth of 540 will be only 54; and he ſays, the quantity of blood in a horſe is ſix times 25 pounds, (the quantity in man) or 150 pounds: afterwards he makes the quantity of blood in a horſe 450 pounds; for he ſays, what ſenſible effect can the taking away a quart of blood have, if we conſider he has near 225 times as much in his body? Two hundred and twenty-five quarts muſt be 450 pints, or pounds; and rating the quantity of blood in a horſe at 150 pounds, which we take to be very near the mark, and that quantity paſſing the heart ten times in an hour and twelve minutes, it will be in that time 1500 pounds, inſtead of 540. What can we ſay for theſe miſtakes in Bracken, (an ingenious

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ſenſible man and a ſcholar) and on a point, too, which he himſelf conſiders of the greateſt moment to be well underſtood! Muſt we ſuppoſe him fond of good ale, or ſome other good liquor, that entirely diveſted him of the accuracy of calculation? and that he wrote this part of his ſubject, when he was *in his cups?*

Mr. Clarke, we have ſaid, here quotes Bracken, but not very carefully copies his miſtakes. Bracken ſtates, that the whole quantity of blood in a man paſſes the heart ten times in an hour; and in a horſe, in an hour and twelve minutes: Mr. Clarke ſays, "The quantity of blood in man paſſes the heart in an hour, and in an hour and twelve minutes in a horſe;" leaving out the ten times, which makes the trifling difference between him and Bracken of *nine tenths.*

We deem it as proper and neceſſary for every author to examine and conſider the maxims and notions of his predeceſſors, as it is to produce his reaſons and arguments in defence of his own doctrines and opinions; otherwiſe his work may prove to be, if not an impoſition, a uſeleſs intruſion on the public: but we certainly wiſh not to have ſuch petty faults and miſtakes to remark upon.

Mr. Clarke obſerves the diſeaſes of horſes to be ſimilar to thoſe of man, abating of thoſe ariſing from (a very fruitful ſource of diſeaſe indeed), the paſſions of the mind; but excluſive of theſe, the diſeaſes of horſes fall very ſhort of the number in man. Our Viterinarian author, we ſuppoſe, will have no objection to our ſtriking off his liſt, the ſmall-pox, the meaſles, chicken-pox, and hooping-cough; and, with his permiſſion, we alſo except

except the *ague*. We obſerve to Mr. Clarke, on this occaſion, that the circumſtance of horſes not having either the ſmall-pox, nor the meaſles, firſt gave us the idea of their not having the ague.

Mr. Clarke ſays, that horſes wild, or in a natural ſtate, are free from diſorders: that they are more free from diſorder than horſes in uſe, is certainly true; but that they are not entirely free from diſorder, is equally ſo.

Mr. Clarke takes blood away in inflammatory caſes, to the quantity of ſix or eight pounds, or a gallon, at a bleeding: making the whole quantity 450 pounds, as he ſays, (after Bracken), what effect can the taking a quart have, from 225 times as much? tho' at the ſame time he tells us, that a horſe has ſix times as much blood as a man, ſix times 25 pounds, which is 150 pounds; and which

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we give as the true general ſtandard, over or under we hardly need mention, according to the ſize of the horſe. Mr. Clarke, however, takes a gallon away, whether from 450 pounds, or from 150 pounds, (in which quantities there is a difference of two thirds) and this may be done with propriety either way; the quantity to be taken, to be determined more by the ſtate of the pulſe, and the effect bleeding has upon it, as to its ſtrength, quickneſs, fullneſs and hardneſs, than by the whole quantity of blood.

THE END.

ERRATA.

Page 3,	line 18.	*Great affinity*	read	*greater affinity.*
9,	18.	*Solleyſelt*	read	*Solleyſell.*
98,	20.	After *a quarter*	dele	*or.*
118,	15.	*Medinaſtium*	read	*mediaſtinum.*